



# 一般人生

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WILL  
THE BRAVE  
SUMMONED AGAIN  
LIVE AS AN  
ORDINARY PERSON?

きていい？

PRESENTED BY  
かたなかじ

ILLUSTRATION

弥南せいら

# 再召喚

された

# 勇者

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# Will the Re-Summoned Hero Live as an Ordinary Person

by Katanakaji

[Novel Updates](#)

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# Chapter 21

Saying farewell to the ancient dragon, Souta goes to the forest where Edward had been left.

Although there's quite a distance to the watering hole where Edward is supposed to wait, Souta feels his presence and is relieved.

When the watering hole becomes visible Edward, who was resting there, raises his head as he notices Souta's presence. He runs over to welcome Souta once he sees him.

Souta pats Edward's head while Edward snuggles his face to Souta's head.

"Nothing unusual happened, right?"

Edward nods while snorting.

"You must be hungry. For now, you can have this."

From the dimensional storage, Souta takes out the orange like fruit called tangi and radi and feed it to Edward.

Edward is so hungry that he flattens the two in no time.

Souta headed to the mountain early in the morning and came back past noon. Since Edward ate in the morning, it's natural that he was hungry considering he could only drink water.

There are few monsters in the woods, but since there are many animals, Souta thought they wouldn't be able to have their meal in peace, so he takes Edward to an open space outside the forest.

Before, Souta was able to eat in the shade because he tried to rest on the side of the tree on this journey, but this time he chooses a place without trees a little away from the forest.

Souta takes out a simple roof-only tent from the dimensional storage and decides to rest beneath it.

Because Souta also hasn't eaten, they eat the prepared meal vigorously. The food prepared for Edward is already gone.

The additional meal that's just taken from the dimensional storage also

vanishes not long after.

After finishing the meal, Souta rubs his stomach with his left hand, and Edward with his right hand, and decides to take a break while viewing the landscape.

Rubbed by Souta, Edward narrows his eyes pleasantly.

After his stomach settles, Souta rises and starts tidying up the tent.

"Edward, we need to go back soon."

Edward also gets up and gives a neigh of affirmation.

When Souta takes out the carriage from the dimensional storage, Edward moves to a position where it is easy to install the harness on his own.

After the carriage is installed, Souta takes the reins and sits at the coachman seat.

"Now then, shall we go back to the city?"

Edward gives another neigh and departs.

When heading to the mountain they do so at a relaxed speed watching the scenery and talking with Edward, ....but on the way back, they hurry because they need to make the medicine.

Souta creates a barrier of wind to reduce the burden of wind pressure to him and Edward. Although there is no strong wind, it is possible to reduce the burden on the body because of moving for a long time.

In order to raise the moving speed further, Souta cast body strengthening magic on Edward.

It takes Souta and Edward three days to get into the mountain, but only one-and-a-half days on the way back to the town.

The guard here doesn't check anything for people who depart, but always confirms the identity card for people who want to come in.

"Do you have something that can prove your identity? If you do not have it ... it seems you do."

Souta takes out the guild card from his bag even before the guard's words finish, Souta shows it to the guard who comes while still riding the coach.

"Is this fine?"

"Guild card huhh... Yes, I confirmed it. Rank D ... please do your best!"

The young man, who seems to have just become a guard, cheers on Souta with a frank way of speaking.

Souta receives the encouragement that means 『Please aim for the top』 and thinks about the fact that he doesn't feel like aiming for the top or something like that. He ends up giving a vague response.

"Unn, yeah. So, is there anything else?"

"Ahh, one more thing, can you touch this crystal?"

Souta is presented with a crystal that was the same as the one he touched when he first entered the city.

Since it's hard to touch while still riding the coach, Souta gets down and touches the crystal.

Like last time, it glows for a moment, it also ends quickly and the crystal returns to its transparent state.

"Unn, that's fine. You can go through."

After saying that, he gives a salute from a bit away.

"Ahh, thanks for your hard work."

After that, Souta returns to the coachman seat and proceeds into the city.

In the initial plan Souta needed to get the liver and deliver it to the guild to finish the request and get the house, but after thinking about the time, effort and problems that might occur when making the medicine, he heads towards the inn.

Because the meal in the previous inn was delicious, he chooses the same inn as last time.

Because Souta chose the inn on the spot before, he didn't see the name of the inn. This time, he stops to check and confirms that the name is 『Hinadori no Yasuragi Inn』.

Souta gets off from the carriage that's parked in front of the inn, and he enters the inn after stroking Edward's head.

Upon entering the inn, Miri welcomes him just like the last time.

"Oh, it's Souta-san, welcome home!"

She confirms Souta comes back and runs over immediately. Her tail is swinging to the right and left to show her joy.

"Miri, I'm home... Is it okay to say that? Didn't the room deadline pass a while

ago."

Miri pouts from Souta's remark.

"Mouu, it's fine! Please just obediently say I'm home."

"Hmm, I understand. I'm home."

Souta answers, putting on an expression that says it can't be helped

"Yes, welcome home."

Miri smiles, feeling satisfied despite the apathetic answer from Souta.

"Ara, welcome back, Souta-san. Your room is vacant without anyone using it."

Noticing the voices of two people, Milfana speaks to Souta.

"I see, if that's the case, I'd like to stay for two nights for the time being."

"Yes, I understand. Fufu, it looks like Miri is delighted as well."

Milfana says that while looking at those two, Miri becomes flustered and blushes from that.

"I-It's not like that. I'm just a little happy because the person who left the inn is returning safely, that's it! "

"Yes, yes, I understand. More importantly, can you get me the key for Souta-san's room? Also, please do not be so loud."

"Although you are the one who makes me make such a loud voice."

Despite grumbling, she still properly retrieves the key.

Meanwhile, Souta pays the fee to Milfana.

"Here, Souta-san. It's the same room key just like my mother said, is this room fine? "

Upon receiving the key, Souta nods.

"Yeah, it's okay. Also, I have a carriage. Do you have stables or something? "

"In that case, I'll guide you, since it's behind the inn."

Without waiting for a reply, Miri takes Souta's hand and heads out.

t/n: Hinadori no Yasuragi Inn: lit. mean tranquil chick, or tranquil young bird, google translate give me peace of young bird, bing give me piece bird, if you have suggestion for the translation, just comment below, until i found the good one, i will keep it in japanese

# Chapter 22

"Yeah, it's okay. Also, I have a carriage. Do you have stables or something? "

"In that case, I will guide you because it's behind the inn."

Without waiting for a reply, Miri takes Souta's hand and goes out.

"Wahhhh! Is this Souta's horse-drawn carriage? Horse-san is so big! "

Miri tries to stroke Edward. She went out of the inn with Souta and holds no hostility, so Edward doesn't resist and obediently stays still.

Souta notices that and also strokes Edward.

"Now then, can you guide me?"

"Aahh, yes, I'm sorry. Come this way."

Remembering she was in the middle of guiding Souta, she stops and heads toward the back of the inn.

"There is a carriage storage inside, may I ask you to leave it there? Now, I will open the lock."

She takes out the stable key from her pocket and then opens the door. There are already a few carriages there.

"Please put your carriage next to the one there. Once placed, horse-san can go to the stall over there."

Souta moves the carriage to the place instructed by Miri and removes the carriage from Edward.

There are several other animals in the stalls. Edward is taken to one of the vacant stalls.

"Ahh, we charge one silver coin per day per horse. The foods are common one, but we offer three meals a day unless otherwise specified."

"He already ate in the morning and afternoon. I'll leave the evening meal to you. Should I pay the fee to the receptionist? "

"From evening, then. I understand. Please give the money to my mother."

"Well then, Edward, I'm going to the inn, so don't make a racket."

Edward snorts, appearing vexed.

"Fine, fine, see you tomorrow then."

Edward obediently nods.

"Ed-kun is it ... Amazing, it's like Souta-san and Ed-kun are having a proper conversation."

Edward, who seems to like having his name abbreviated, approaches Miri.

"Awawa, do you feel happy somehow? Ed-kun, I'm Miri, best regards! "

Miri says that while stroking Ed's head.

"It's great that you're able to get along. Since I have something to do, I'll go ahead."

"Ah, yes. I will return after I see the conditions of other horses."

Souta goes around the inn, back to the entrance. Milfana welcomes him when he goes to the reception table.

"Souta-san, welcome back. Have you put away your carriage? "

"Yeah, it'll be for two days, same as how long I'm staying. Is it two silver coins? "

Souta takes out the silver coins while confirming the amount.

"..... It's the right amount. If it seems that it will be extended, it will be fine if you say it by the day after tomorrow morning."

"Well then, I'm going out for now. Please take care of my carriage."

"Yes, be careful."

Milfana bows and sees Souta out with a smile.

Upon leaving the inn, Souta walks toward the alchemist shop.

In the store, there are various physical strength recovery potions and magical recovery potions on display to set the atmosphere.

To prevent the medicines from deteriorating due to sunlight, most of the potions have their content replaced with water to just be decorations.

When Souta goes inside, the bell on the door rings.

"Welcome. If there's anything you need, we will prepare it."

Says the clerk behind the counter. She has pink hair and small pointed ears.

"No, I don't want any goods. I want to borrow your equipment. There's something I want to make."

"Ehh? Umm ... I need to ask my grandmother for that. By the way, what do you want to make?"

She asks while tilting her head.



"That is... .. I'll tell your grandma if I can borrow it. Try asking her for the time being."

"... I understand, please wait a moment."

She doesn't look convinced, but still enters the store to ask.

Souta waits while looking at the genuine potions that are showcased, the ones that didn't have their content replaced with water. After a while, a woman comes from the back.

She wears a robe and has blonde hair that's tied behind her. Her face is one that would have 10 out of 10 people say it's beautiful.

"So it's you? The one who wants to borrow our equipment."

"Yes, but ... who are you?"

From behind the woman, the previous clerk appears.

"This is my grandmother I mentioned before."

Souta is stunned. Normally the word grandmother is associated with old women.

"G-Grandmother? You look so young to me, but ... .. those ears, an elf? "

It's obvious when looking at her ears, but it takes Souta a while to notice because he was perplexed by the discrepancy between words, imagination and reality.

"I am Carenalien, the grandmother of this girl. Call me Carena."

"I am Elmia, please treat me well."

Elves are long-lived. Their aging drastically slows after reaching adulthood. They need to be quite old to look like Carena.

"I'm Souta, an adventurer. I already said this to Elmia before, but I want to borrow your alchemy equipment because there's something I want to create."

"I will decide to let you borrow it or not after I hear your story. I will refuse if you just want to make a potion."

Souta hesitates to say it.

"..... Can you promise me you won't tell anyone? It'll be troublesome if the information spreads."

"Be relieved, I am tight-lipped. Of course, this girl is too."

Elves don't disclose secrets and keep their promise by nature, so Souta believes her words.

Most elves he has met so far have a sense of obligation to keep secrets.

"I can't say the reason, but I want to make ambrosia for Stone Fever."  
The two who heard that are surprised, and the store turns quiet. The sound of the hustle and bustle outside of the store could be heard inside.

"...That surprised me. You mean that ambrosia that you need materials from a dragon to create? It may sound rude, but you don't look like you have such a thing."

Elmia also nods many times.

"Now, now, don't judge people just by their appearance. For now, the materials are complete ... I think. I also know how to make it ... probably."

Carena is amazed.

"What's with that, so unreliable... I understand, we will lend you the equipment and even the wisdom you lack."

"Is it okay?"

Carena pushes out her chest and strikes it. Those breasts that are not of the size of what elven breasts should be shake greatly.

"Leave it up to me, this medicine is for the lord's granddaughter, Elina-jou's Stone Fever, isn't it? I also want her to recover. I will lend you the equipment free of charge, of course. Follow me."

Uttering reliable words, Carena heads to the back of the store with Souta.

They enter a large room with various instruments installed.

t/n: first female character with big boobs? carena is probably the blonde woman on volume 1 cover, also where is our heroine, don't tell me it's going to be like legend, heroine enter after 50 chapter in, even though there are plenty of women interested with the MC,

# Chapter 23

They enter a large room with various instruments installed.

"Now then, let me see the materials first."

Carena tells Souta to put them on the table.

A vial of dragon tears, a chunk of basilisk claw, a small bottle of holy water, and a bundle of Iyashi Tree leaves.

"This should be enough."

"You really were able to gather them all ... Well done. Moreover, the material is for the recipe that's no longer used."

"It's no longer used? Do you mean the one that need dragon liver is the latest recipe? "

"Huh, you know that too? The difficulty of getting the liver is high, but the medicine can be created with holy water and basilisk claw."

Souta shows a dubious face.

"The original request was to bring liver, but even then, isn't it easier to create ambrosia using tears? You just need to add Iyashi Tree's leaves as the material ... That tree should have been abundant in the country of the elves. "

"Not anymore. About 200 or 300 years ago, a Stone Fever epidemic broke out and the leaves were rapidly used. A dragon tear is massive, while only small quantities of claw are needed. Holy water can be created, but the leaves are natural things. "

"For something like that to happen... did it become extinct?"

Carena shakes her head.

"No, we prevented its extinction somehow, but it has decreased to a degree that is close to that ... How should I say this ..... The Elves restricted the flow to the outside, and the amount circulating has become extremely small. It is too expensive. Even the royalty cannot get it easily. "

Souta nods, looking convinced.

"Another recipe was created because of that? It's actually more realistic to get

dragon liver instead of Iyashi Tree leaves."

"That is right. In addition to being managed, it is mostly consumed domestically, as there are other uses than curing Stone Fever. So there are only a couple of leaves that leave the country, and that is only on the first month of every year, so it's impossible. "

"I won't tell you how or when I got it, I can get dragon liver if I take down one ... But I have the Iyashi Tree leaves, so I got the tears because it's less dangerous."

"..... I have it as well, but I don't care if you don't know that it's valuable. I also won't ask you because I don't want to be asked in turn."

"It will be great if you do that. So what I prepared is the material for the recipe that's no longer used. Can you make it anyway? "

"Naturally! I have been alive for 500 years, and although I said that it is no longer used, I used to make it in the past."

Carena pushes her chest out and says that with a proud look.

"That's reassuring ... Well then, I ask you to do it immediately, I can't keep doing this for too long."

"Leave it to me. First, grind the leaves using the mortar there. I will put my hands on the other side."

After that, they continue working while following Carena's instructions.

Working through the day, by evening when Elmia tries to check on their condition, Souta and Carena raise their voices at the same time.

""Complete !!""

Souta tries to appraise the finished product. He feels relieved after confirming "Stone Fever Ambrosia" is displayed.

"You saved me. With this, I can save that jii-san's granddaughter."

"Fumu ... .. I think it would be better if I to come too. Originally, it was a request to bring a liver, right? If that is the case, if you bring the medicine, you might not be accepted because you bring something different from the request. They might also suspect whether you actually brought real medicine or not."

"Yeah, I was worrying about how to talk about that."

"I have met with the lord, and my name as an alchemist has been spread quite far. It will be fine."

"Sorry for troubling you so much, can you come with me, then? "

Carena gives an exaggerated nod.

"Also, as advice from me, it would be better to tell Elvas the truth. That guy is stubborn. The story should proceed smoothly if you don't keep any secret, since it is about his important grandchild."

"I understand, let me follow that advice as a proof of trust."

"Well, then let's go at once, I'm going to change my clothes, you prepare the medicine to bring over."

After saying that, Carena goes into the back room to change clothes.

Souta puts the medicine in the bag and tidies up the table.

When the two are ready, Carena calls Elmia at the entrance of the shop.

"Preparations are good, then let's go. Elmia, I'm sorry, but I'm counting on you. I'm going to the lord's house."

"Unn, I got it. Please be careful."

Elmia says that to Carena and gives a bow to Souta.

As they exit, the sky is already getting gradually darker..

The lord's house is located on the west just a little bit outside of the town.

Carena's shop is also located in the west of the city, so they decided to just walk there.



In front of the lord's house

The lord's house is closer to a castle than a house.

Souta asks the guards who are in front of the gate.

"I'm sorry, I would like to meet the lord. He should understand if you say it's Souta, an adventurer who received his request."

"I am this town's alchemist, Carenalien. You know, don't you? Today, I came with Souta, so please convey this to Elvas right away."

The guards have already been told about Souta, and it was said that there is a possibility that he will come soon.

Carena is also famous in this town. She gained tremendous trust from medicine compounding, so the guard heads inside to report to the lord without being too cautious.



"I understand. I will ask, so please wait for a bit."

Because they can't leave the gate unmanned, only one guard goes in while the other keeps watch as it is.

Soon, the guard returns.

"It's confirmed, you were told to go to the reception room. Please go inside."

Following the guidance of the guards, Souta and Carena enter.

The maid who waits there takes over and guides the two to the reception room.

"Welcome, the lord is waiting for you in the reception room, I will guide you."

She says so with a bow and smile without any hint of sarcasm.

"Ahh, I'll leave it to you."

Inside, Lord Elvas sits on the sofa behind the large table, with his knight, Dan, standing behind him.

Elvas stands up and spreads his hands to greet them.

"Yahh, so you came. Both of you can sit there."

He prompts them to sit on the opposite sofa, so they do so.

"I didn't expect Carena to come. I thought that I was going to have trouble because I was planning to ask Carena for the preparation of medicine ... So, Souta, do you get the requested item? "

"I got it, however..."

# Chapter 24

"I got it, however..."

Souta takes the medicine out of his bag.

"I could not get the liver, but with Carena's cooperation, I got the medicine ready."

"Wha-What do you mean? I'm thankful for the medicine, but you say you could not get the liver? Then, how did you get the medicine? "

Elvas is surprised at the medicine Souta brought and the fact that he made it without the liver.

"Elvas, do you know the materials for making ambrosia?"

Carena asks slowly.

"Of course I know. Isn't it dragon liver, basilisk claw, and holy water? The claw and holy water are already..."

Carena nods and says he's correct.

"You remember it well. That's right. But there is another recipe for that medicine. You do not need dragon liver for it."

Elvas is surprised by her statement.

".....Wha-What. It's nothing but surprises today. So that means Souta-dono prepared the medicine with that recipe? "

"That's right. With that recipe, you need the claw, holy water, and instead of liver, you use a dragon tear. But you need to add 3 leaves from an Iyashi Tree as well."

Elvas' jaw drops. He looks shaken.

"It was easier for me to get the tears instead of liver. So for my own convenience, I changed the material and then asked Carena to help me create the medicine."

"I-If I'm not hearing it wrong, did you say leaves from an Iyashi Tree?"

Elvas turns his head, trying to listen clearly, and asks.

"That's right. This recipe was commonly used hundreds of years ago. At that

time, Iyashi Trees' leaves were something that you could easily get. It was even more common than the medicinal herb you can find in the forest. After the leaf became difficult to obtain, the recipe changed to the new one."

"Ahh, is that so... .. No, even so, it's not that ... .. How did Souta-dono, how ... did you get the leaves? "

Because Carena's reply is different from what he was looking for, Elvas rephrases his question.

"I can't say how I obtained it, only that it was done so legally."

"Is that so? ... No, I see. It's not something that's obtained easily."

"Well, that's the case. I also won't ask about it. So, this is the proper medicine for stone fever. It has already been confirmed with appraisal. I came today as a guarantor."

Elvas nods as he strokes his beard.

"I see, so that's the reason .... But if that's the case, I have to reconsider Souta-dono's rewards."

Souta sighs.

"Haahh~ like I thought, it comes to this. I brought something different from the request. It's not an official guild request, but it's still against the rules."

Says Souta weakly while gazing at the ceiling.

"No, no, there is no way I will cancel Souta-dono's rewards. My goal is to make the medicine to cure my granddaughter. Certainly, my request was for dragon liver, but it was a request that ignored rank. What I'm trying to say is that if my granddaughter gets healed by this medicine, then I need to give you an extra reward."

"Ahh, that's what you mean. That's good, then. I thought the request would be deemed a failure."

"If he condemns a man who created the medicine and even used Iyashi Tree leaves for it, he wouldn't have been a lord for this long. Elvas is known as an honest person, and thanks to that, he will not wrong a benefactor."

Adds Carena.

"Since I only came here to explain about the material, I'm not concerned about other things. Leaving that aside ... wouldn't it be better to let your granddaughter drink the medicine? I know that people who contract Stone

Fever also suffer from high fever."

"That's right, it's just as Carena said. Let's go quickly. Both of you can come as well."

Worried about Elina, Elvas takes the medicine and hurries out of the room. Dan, Souta and Carena follow him.

Elvas gradually hastens until he enters a dash. He runs without bothering to check whether or not the three can follow. The maids that see Elvas running all watch with round eyes.

After going up the stairs, Elvas stops his feet in front of one of the rooms. Elvas, who is out of breath, inhales deeply to adjust his breathing.

"Hahh hahh, fuhhhh~ hahhh~."

He knocks and then brings his face close to the door before speaking.

"Eline, it's Grandpa. I brought some medicine today. It's my friends who made it, and they are nice people. Can they also come in? "

"It's fine, Grandpa's friends can also enter."

After getting a reply, Elvas slowly opens the door and enters the room.

On a large bed with a canopy, a girl with blue hair lays with only her face facing the entrance.

Beads of sweat are on her forehead.

"Sorry for stay lying down, Grandpa, Dan-san and Carena-san ... .. Is the onii-san there Grandpa's friend? "

Her voice also sounds weak.

"Ahh that's right. He's Souta-dono, an adventurer. He brought me a medicine to cure Elina."

"Hmmm... medicine? The medicine for this illness should be very precious ... .. I'm sorry, sorry to bother you."

Elvas is dismayed by Elina's words.

"Wha-What are you talking about? Elina doesn't need to worry. This is what Grandpa did without permission. The one that need to apologize to everyone is me."

"No, I wanted to apologize. I bothered Grandpa ... .. the medicine is very hard to create, isn't it? "

"If it's for Elina, nothing is hard!"

"But ..."

Looking at them arguing back and forth without end, Souta interrupts them.

"Hey, regardless if you apologize or don't apologize, why don't you take the medicine now? Isn't it painful to talk in your condition? "

"It's as Souta said. It doesn't matter who's wrong or who needs to apologize. You need to take the medicine soon. Otherwise it would be wasting our effort." Dan nods many times behind the two.

"Y-You're right. Here, this is the medicine. It might be bitter, but please endure it."

Elvas opens the lid of the bottle and brings it to Elina's mouth.

Elina drinks the medicine without saying anything this time.

She closes her eyes tightly from the strong bitterness. She drinks all the contents of the bottle while furrowing her brows.

Right after she finishes drinking the medicine, her feet start to emit light. Her reddish cheeks and her fever gradually recover. When the light disappears, Elina opens her eyes.

"H-How is it? Is your body alright? "

Still lying down, Elina tries to move her hands and legs.

"Grandpa ... healed, it's healed! My body is not painful and my legs can move!!"

"Really?! That's great, that's great, Elina ....."

Elvas embracing Elina while shedding tears. Tears flow down from Elina's eyes.

After hugging for a while, Elina loosens her embrace.

"Grandpa, I want to walk alone. It's been 2 weeks since I've been bedridden."

"O-Oh, is that so? Be careful, you are just recovering."

Elvas leaves the bed.

"Un, I know."

After replying so, Elina sits on the bed and tries to get up.

"Ah!"

She moves her body forward and then lifts her waist. The next moment, her knees give out when she tries to stand.

"Oi-oi, be careful."

Souta moves to catch Elina before she falls.



Then he puts her on the bed again.

"I was told it's been two weeks since you became bedridden. No matter how young you are, your muscles still get weaker if you lie down for that long. For now, you should rehabilitate your muscles without rushing."

"Y-Yes. I'm sorry."

Because she doesn't have that much contact with men other than her grandfather and the people in her house, Elina's body tenses up.

"Jii-san, it can't be helped if she wants to move around, but you should stop her as an adult, since she's still recovering just like you said before."

"S-Sorry. Also, thank you very much, especially for the medicine."

Elvas deeply lowers his head. Seeing at that, Elina and Dan also lower their heads.

"Now then, it is great that Elina is healed, so about the reward ... How about we talk about it at around noon tomorrow? Will Carena come too? Today, I'd like to spend time alone with Elina. "

"I only came along to make sure the medicine works. I won't come tomorrow. I don't need a separate fee. It's been awhile since I made something interesting, so that's enough."

Souta shrugs.

"So unselfish. Then I'll come alone tomorrow. Well then."

Souta turns his back without waiting for a reply and heads out of the room.

"Umm, thank you very much!"

Says Elina in a loud voice. Souta answers by only raising his right hand without looking back.

# Chapter 25

The next day, as promised, Souta goes to the lord's house at noon. After Souta waits awhile, Elvas comes. Following him today is not Dan, but a man in butler clothing.

"I am sorry to keep you waiting. I am helping Elina rehabilitate."

"No, I don't mind since the sweets are delicious."

Souta says so while reaching for the sweets that are served.

"If you say so."

Elvas smiles knowing Souta said that because he is trying to mind the atmosphere.

"Now then, although you said we'll be talking about the rewards, it'll be fine if I get enough gold for the house.....so it's 200 gold coins, I think."

Elvas leans forward from surprise.

"That's unthinkable! You saved the life of my granddaughter, Elina. You even used the precious Iyashi Tree leaves for this. 200 gold coins are not enough!"

Overpowered by Elvas' intensity, Souta stops eating sweets.

"I-Is that so. I don't mind, but ... .. I might not be able to receive what you give. What do you want to give me?"

"... That's why I'm troubled with what I should give to you."

Elvas folds his arms and shows a troubled face.

"By the way, I won't accept peerage or employment from you. I'll also refuse if you try to give me a servant."

"..... Ummu, on the contrary, is there something you want to ask for? Other than the house."

"Let's see..."

Now it's Souta who folds his arms to think about it.

"For now, you can say anything. I will tell you later whether or not I can prepare it."

"Ummu... it's not an object, but it'd be good if you protect me within your

sphere of influence. I will likely get into trouble from other adventurers or nobles."

"Fumu, that's an easy task. Hmmm..... let's add an additional 1,000 gold coins of the discounted house price to the 200 gold coin reward. Even then, it is far from the price of Iyashi Tree leaves, so I will make sure to come to your aid no matter what kind of mess you get into. I'll be saved if I can get pardoned for the time being."

Souta scratches his head.

"No, I originally said that 200 gold coins are good, but ... I'll take what I can get. Ah, also, don't divulge the information to other people. Not only you, but also your granddaughter, every servant in this house, Dan and the knight, basically everyone."

"It will be fine if it's only that. We will never leak the information of Elina's life saver."

Elvas says that with a stern expression, but Souta takes the promise with a grain of salt. He recalls the proverb that the door can't stand in a person's mouth.

The greater the number of people that know the information, the easier it is to leak. Optimistically saying "Since it's Elvas, everything will be fine" will lead to the information spreading before they know it.

However, there is the promise "Please protect me" from before that will take effect if there is an information leak.

When leaked as a rumor, some will try to confirm the credibility. There are many ways to handle this if it's adventurers, but with nobles, it will be troublesome.

At that time, it will be easier if they are only able to get the story from the earl to avoid having inconsistencies.

Even if by chance everything fails, the aim is still to increase the possibility of avoiding it, even if it's only by a little.

"I'll leave it to you, then. I don't know what'll happen if you break it ... Now then, can you give me the gold now?"

"Ahh~ it's already prepared. I thought that I would give this amount of gold coin no matter what condition I was given. If you told me that it's not enough, that amount would have been prepared for a later date."

Following Elvas's eyes, the butler who stands behind him puts gold coins on the table.

"Souta-sama, this is 1,200 gold coins ... also, I would like to give my thanks too. For saving Ojou-sama, thank you very much."

The butler bows deeply.

"This gratitude, although one might say it's inexcusable, please receive it." After saying that and lowering his head once again, the butler puts the gold coins in a bag.

"Now then, the talk about the reward is over. I'm going back now, or can I?" Souta raises his waist but Elvas stops him.

"Before that, I think that Elina wants to see you to thank you again. Can you meet her first?"

"Fuu, there's no choice. Then I'll go to her room before I leave."

Souta who remembers the way to her room heads to reception room entrance to go to Elina's room.

The double doors swing backward before Souta tries to open them.

"Good day, Souta-sama, yesterday thank you for bringing the medicine for Elina."

There is Elina who bows while pinching the ends of her skirt.

"You can walk already? It's possible if the original muscle strength is high ... but, don't push yourself."

Souta puts his hand on Elina's head while saying that, Elina looks a little ticklish.

When Souta's hand separate from her head, she responds with a bright smile.

"Yes, I'm still practicing inside the house. I will go out once I get better."

"Ahh, do your best. Then I'll go, let's meet again if I have the opportunity."

After saying that, Souta passes through Elina side, leaves the room and heads out of the lord's house.

Elvas, Elina, and the butler go to the entrance, hurrying after Souta. They bow deeply and watch him leave.

# Chapter 26

Upon leaving the lord's house, Souta, unable to bear his hunger anymore, decides to get a meal on his way to the guild.

Since it's near lunch time, there are many stalls along the street.

A certain stall grabs Souta's attention, one that grills batter made of flour, water, vegetable and meat and serves the food with salty-and-sweet sauce. It looks like okonomiyaki on Earth, but it doesn't have toppings such as dried bonito, green seaweed, and mayonnaise.

"Give me two of this."

Souta orders despite not knowing the food's name.

"Aiyo, it's 40 copper for two ..... Hii, Fuu .... It's just right. I'm grilling it now, please wait."

Because there's no one other than Souta in line, he starts making Souta's order right away.

The fragrant smell of the sauce makes Souta gulp audibly.

"Here you go. Two of them freshly cooked. Be careful when you eat it because it's still hot."

The stall owner hands him the food on a disposable dish.

"Thank you. By the way, what's the name of this cuisine?"

The stall owner is surprised by Souta's question.

"I'm ashamed to say this, but this food isn't good enough to be called a cuisine. It's something I made a long time ago at my house, and there's no name."

Souta puts one of them on the edge of the stall and starts eating the other one.

Souta finishes it in a flash while the store owner watches.

"Un, it's delicious. As expected, it resembles the cuisine in my hometown."

"What!? There is someone else who make this other than my place!?"

Souta replies to the stall owner while eating the second one.

"Yeah, there are some regions in my home country where they have this as their specialty. Although it's so far away that it's impossible to go there."



"Did you ever eat it in its place of origin?"

"I did. It was a long time ago."

"How is it compared to mine?"

Souta thinks a bit.

"Let's see ... well, honestly speaking, the one I ate a long time ago is better than what Ossan makes. Ossan, the final seasoning is only this sauce right? The thing I ate had topping with it."

"Wha-What kind?"

"There were various things, such as flavored ones and things that tangled up with the sauce. I'm not a chef, so I don't know the name."

Of course, Souta knows its name on Earth, but he doesn't know the name of what would become a substitute here, so he says it vaguely.

"Is that so?..... Say, you're probably the only one who's eaten it in here, so please come to eat again and then taste what I added. Of course, at that time, you won't need to pay!"

"I understand, but I can't promise how often I'll come."

"That's no problem. I'll always be on this street in this city, so I hope you'll come again."

Souta makes a promise with the okonomiyaki stall owner and heads to the guild while eating the third piece he got for free.

The bar area next to the guild is crowded, while there are not that many people in line for the receptionists.

Souta goes to Airi who he always interacts with.

"Ah, Souta-san. Welcome, how can I help you today? "

"I need to talk with Guran and Milfa. They should understand if you say it's about the request from before. Can you ask for it? "

"Master and Milfa-san is it, I understand. Please wait here for a moment."

Airi comes to Souta who waited while watching the requests placed on the bulletin board.

"Souta-san, sorry I've made you wait. They said they are going to meet you, please go to the usual room."

Airi returns to her reception table and points at the staircase.

When Souta enters the room what greets him is the same scene as usual with

Guran on the sofa and Milfa behind it.

"Ouu, Souta. So about the request this time, did you get the dragon liver? "

Souta shakes his head at Guran's question.

"So you could not do it. That means there is likely no one who can get the liver ... I feel sorry for Elina-chan ..."

"Oi, don't just assuming things. Elina's alright, and her Stone Fever has recovered."

"... ... What do you mean? You didn't get the liver, did you? "

Guran puts his hand on his chin and asks Souta while frowning.

"Let me just say the conclusion. I prepared a medicine for Stone Fever. Elina healed after she drank it. Elvas-jiisan decided that the request was completed and gave me the rewards. That's it."

"You prepared the medicine, but how? It should be harder without liver, so how did you prepare it? "

"That's a secret. Isn't the important thing here the result? Leaving that aside, I'll pay the 200 gold coins, so please proceed with the matters of the house."

After Milfa receives the bag containing gold coins, she takes out the document and goes to the safe in one corner of the room.

"Oy, tell me, though it's probably useless to try to get the story out of you. Eii, no time for that now! Anyway, I would like to thank you for helping Elina-chan, since Elvas is my old friend."

"She's in the middle of walking practice now, since she won't be able to leave her house yet. You should go see her."

"Ummu, thank you. Thanks to Souta, he doesn't need to suffer. It's painful to lose a relative for the same reason twice ..."

Guran even while sitting lowers his head deeply. Milfa, who had finished preparing the document, also lowers her head from behind.

"Don't worry about it, the thanks I got from the lord's house is enough. Leaving that aside ... ... the house is okay, isn't it? "

Souta shoots a gaze at Milfa to confirm.

"Of course! Because we kept the money, if you go to the real estate agent with this document and do the procedure, that house will be Souta-san house."

Souta stands up when he nods.

"Then, let's go to the real estate agent immediately."

Souta and Milfa both leave the guild master room.

The moment the door closes after they leave, it opens again.

"I forgot to mention that it's no use trying to hear the details from Elvas. Well then."

From the room, the sound of Guran's groan can be heard.

# Chapter 27

Guided by Milfa, Souta heads to the real estate agent. When they head out of the adventurer guild, Airi follows Souta with her eyes, but she immediately returns to work because she's in the middle of dealing with another adventurer. For the guild master secretary to accompany other people is unusual, and other staff and adventurers give curious looks. Milfa's secret fans watch with begrudging eyes.

Milfa herself leaves the guild without noticing those gazes. After they leave the guild and walk for a couple of minutes, they stop in front of a certain building. "Here it is" 『House of the Earth』 is written on the signboard.

A bell rings from the opened door. Although the receptionist counter is empty, the person inside notices the sound and comes running out.

"S-Sorry, I'm organizing the documents in the back ... .. I never thought that a customer would come."

The person who comes out is a woman with green hair in a fluffy-looking hairstyle. Despite her short stature, she's strong. The documents that she had organized are piled up like a mountain in her hands, but she's carrying them easily.

"Give me a minute... .. Please wait ... ..There." After she puts down the documents in an empty space, she moves to the reception desk. It's the first time they see her face since entering.

"Isn't it Milfa, what is it? You should have told me earlier. I won't use honorifics since it'll put me at a disadvantage." "Geez Fuura, can't you see I'm not the only one that came today? This is Souta-san. We came because of the matter of the house."

Milfa introduces Souta while rebuking Fuura.

"Ara, that was rude of me. I am Fuura, the store manager of this House of the Earth, nice to meet you, Adventurer-san."

"I'm Souta, nice to meet you too, Manager-san."

Greets Souta while shaking the hand Fuura holds out.

"So, when you said the house, is it that mansion? Although that place isn't too spacious, in it are magic tools in various places. I'd want to live there if I had the money."

"Yeah, that mansion. Because Souta-san here is supposed to buy it, please do the procedure."

Milfa speaks casually for a moment there, but she enters work mode again and uses honorifics for Fuura.

"Hee, so this is the person. You're still young, to buy that house... .. Are you an A-rank or a promising B-rank maybe?"

Souta shakes his head.

"No, I'm D-rank."

"Ha? D? Then ... Maybe you're a young master from somewhere?"

Milfa shakes her head this time.

"I don't know about his origin, but Souta-san is buying this house with his ability."

She returns to an informal manner of speech again. Milfa's mannerism seems to relax when she speaks to Fuura.

"Well, it'll help me if you don't pry. Leaving that aside, how about the procedure? I want to prepare furniture and everything else for living there, so I want to move quickly if possible."

"Ahh, yeah yeah. I'm sorry for carelessly going with the mood. Procedure right, Milfa, give me the documents I handed you the other day."

Fuura points to the envelope that Milfa is holding.

"Yeah, please do. Also confirm the remaining 200 gold coins that's entrusted to us ... Here, please confirm this."

Milfa passes the document and takes out gold coins from the magic bag that's hanging from her shoulder to place them on the counter.

"The document is... Un, it's fine. Now, please write Souta-san's name in this



spot. I'll start checking the gold coins."

Souta skims the contents and signs the document with the pen he received. That document is equivalent to the transfer agreement for that house.

Souta thought that the gold coins would be counted manually, but Fuura brings a magic tool from the back and pours the gold coins into it. It's called the coin counter. It counts the number of gold coins inserted and displays it on a small monitor as a numerical value.

"There's a magic tool like that .... First time I've seen it."

"Ah, well, it's only used by shopkeepers, so it's natural that you've never seen it."

"Souta-san, even in the guild, we count with this when we give your reward."

"Is that so."

While counting the gold coins, Souta is curiously watching the magic tool.

"Just 200 coins. I got 800 coins from my uncle, so this is all I need. After that, I will prepare the right document and the key, so wait a moment."

She takes the gold coins bag and goes to the back.

"Uncle?"

"Yes, she is the niece of Guild Master. Master's little sister is Fuura's mother."

"Houu, so that kind of connection what made it possible for discounts?"

Souta fold his arms and nods.

"That's right, but as expected, 200 gold coins is too much."

"It's amazing already to made it into 1000 gold coins, though I can't really respect his personality."

"Fufufu, is it Souta-san's place to say such a thing to the guild master? He usually has a bit more dignity."

Souta's eyes turn upwards and he recalls Guran's image.

"Dignity ..... huhh. A title sometimes nurtures people ... is it? No it should be so."

"I think that's kind of true. Master was more short-tempered in the past, but he has settled down quite a bit with his current job."

"So it's like that."

Fuura returns from the back.

There are several papers in her hand, as well as the same key that Milfa had

when they took a look at the house.

"Sorry to keep you waiting. This paper is the land deed and building deed document. And this is the key to the house. Please be careful not to lose it, since the key is also a magic tool and is difficult to duplicate."

"Ah, thank you."

"If there is some trouble about the house, please come speak with me."

"Ahh, I'll do so when that happens. Well then, see you."

Souta turns his back to Fuura and leaves the store.

Souta turns to Milfa who came out with him.

"Thank you for the guiding me and for the procedure. I'll buy furniture and go take my carriage."

"Yes, I'm relieved that the house was handed over without problem. Let's meet again at the guild."

"Hmm, since meeting you also means meeting Guran, I want to avoid that as much as possible."

Says Souta while scratching his head.

"Oh, that's right ... I will occasionally be at the reception desk, so I hope that we can meet then."

Souta waves his hand, and Milfa bows. They separate there.

# Chapter 28

After separating with Milfa, Souta heads to the furniture store he'd seen before.

It's a little small for a furniture shop, but because various pieces of furniture are placed here and there, Souta can easily find what he wants.

Souta purchases several large beds, sofas, chairs, large tables, desks for work, bookshelves, cupboards and the like.

The shopkeeper has the atmosphere of a true artisan. After he tells Souta the price and receives the payment, he doesn't say anything when he sees Souta putting pieces of furniture one after another into his bag.

The shopkeeper takes a liking to Souta who chooses while reviewing each piece of furniture one by one despite buying in large quantity.

"We also take requests for orders if you have any, so please feel free to come back."

He says that without any expression. That remark is something that would surprise people who know how taciturn he is.

"Ahh, the things here are good, so I'll ask you if there's something I want."

The shopkeeper is pleased with Souta's casual remark, but his facial expression remains largely unchanged and Souta left the shop without the feeling being conveyed.

Souta's next stop is the inn.

It's to check out of the inn and to retrieve the carriage and Edward.

Because it took times to choose his furniture, it's evening when Souta arrives at the inn.

Upon entering the inn, Miri welcomes Souta with her usual smile.

"Ah, Souta-san, welcome back!"

"I'm back. Is Milfana here? "

"Mom? I'm going in to call her, please wait for a bit."

Miri goes looking for Milfana at a trot.

Milfana seems to have been at the back of the reception area. Miri comes back while pulling her hand right away.

"Ara, welcome back Souta-san."

Confirming the two of them already come, Souta looks at their face in turn and opens his mouth.

"I finally settled the matter of purchasing the house. I've been taken care of so far, but since I'll live there, I'm going to vacate this place."

"That's..... Un, but it is fine. It's a good house, isn't it? "

Milfana is pleasantly surprised at Miri who keeps down her lonesome feelings and behaves well.

"Miri ..... Souta-san's place is better, understood? My apologies, now then, if you check-out now you will still need to pay for today in full... is this fine? "

"Ah, that's fine. The room is the same as last time, and we have all the baggage out so it should only need to be cleaned up. Also... I want to pick up Edward and the carriage."

"Oh, I understand. Mom, I'm going too."

"Yes, please. Now then, thank you so much Souta-san. If there is something else, please come again."

Milfana bowed deeply, Souta gestures for her to raise her head with his hand and lightly answers.

"I'll still come to the cafeteria. Also, please give my regards to the chef."

"Souta-san, let's go quickly."

Miri has already taken the key for the stables, and tries to go out while pulling Souta's sleeve.

"Yes, yes, I'm coming already, so you can stop pulling. Well then, take care."

In a state like that, Souta says his farewell and leaves with Miri.

When they come to the back and going into the stable, there is a conspicuous, loud neigh.

Ed who's seen that Souta came raised a voice of joy.

"Oh, Ed cheerful, aren't you ... well it hasn't been that long, so it's unlikely for you to become gloomy."

When Souta goes closer to Ed's stall and strokes his head, Ed rubs his face on him while snorting.

"Ed, I bought a house so we can live over there this time. I'm going to make a shed for you to live."

"Souta-san, I opened the gate of the horse garage, so please check the carriage."

Taking Ed from the stall, they go down together to check the carriage.

There's no soil or dust on it, and it's cleaned so well that it gives a shine as if he just bought it.

"This, is it Miri who clean it?"

Ed also raises a voice of joy that the carriage he'll pull is so clean.

"Ah, yes. It seems like it's new, and when I thought about cleaning it a little bit, I got too motivated, ehehe."

Thanking Miri, Souta reaches into his bag.

He thinks about giving her a tip at first.... But it's not good if she gets money at a place unknown to her parents, and she might also refuse because she only did it with good intent.

Thinking that, Souta takes out a brooch shaped like a bird. It's a handmade item he created in his previous journey.

"Since you made it so clean, I'll give you this in return."

"Eh? Is that okay? Such a wonderful thing ... I haven't done anything to deserve this at all."

"No, don't worry, since I used to make this kind of thing. Rather, it might be a little misshapen for a token of gratitude."

Miri shakes her head vigorously.

"It's good! It's really good! I'm really happy ... Ehehe."

Saying so, she wears the brooch on her chest.

"I'm glad that you like it. Alright, Ed, go to your spot."

Ed moves to the carriage.

After completing the installation, Souta gets onto the coach.

"Miri, please take care. Also, I think that there'll be times when I'll go to the cafeteria, so please take care of me that time."

"Yes, I'll be waiting! Thank you!!"

She places one hand on the brooch and waves goodbye with the other.

On the way back to the house, Souta stops by some shops to buy vegetables, fruits, seasonings, also, as the sun is coming down, he buys what's available in the stall trying to close.

He also buys tableware such as cups and dishes, and buckets for Ed to drink and eat with.

Souta reaches the house when the sun has completely set. After placing the body of the carriage on the edge of the garden, Souta makes a space for Ed to rest.

He takes out a simple tent used when returning from the mountain and puts it in the garden.

To prevent the night wind and to improve ventilation, the cloth on the side is rolled down.

Because he doesn't have any straw, Souta spreads the king boar fur on the ground.

"Ed, tomorrow I'll make a shed for you, so can you sleep in this today?"

After snorting as if saying that it's good enough, Edward lies down on the fur.

A short distance away from the fur, there are two buckets, one to hold drinking water made with water magic, the other to hold the vegetables and fruits he bought.

"This is dinner, I'll clean up in the house, so please call me if there's something. Also, you can ask for more after you finish that."

Ed snorts again and gets up to start eating.

After confirming that, Souta unlocks the door and goes into the house. Souta concentrates his magic powers to start cleaning first before putting in the furniture.

# Chapter 29

After confirming that, Souta unlocks the door and goes into the house.

Souta concentrates his magic powers to start cleaning before putting in the furniture.

He plans to clean the entire house using magic in one fell swoop. Considering the magic power consumption, it is easier to clean it normally, but Souta pushes through with his magical power.

He puts his hand on the floor of the entrance lobby, accumulates magic power, strongly holds the image where the house is clean and releases magic. "Clean"

Having been regularly maintained, it's clean enough, but Souta's magic also cleans all the fine dirt, dust and other things not normally cleaned.

Compared to using the spell on a single person, using it on a building, especially a large mansion like this, require dozens of times more magic to makes it clean, and if the user is unskillful, it can even require hundreds of time of magic to cast it.

In addition to that, Souta's image of clean is too strong, making the magic power consumption far exceed the amount normally consumed. Feeling the magic power draining out of him, Souta wobbles.

The stains on the wall due to age, which did not disappear when the real estate agent cleaned them, also disappear. At this point, one might wonder whether or not this is a new building.

"Ahh, I overdid it. So tired, but it made it easier to live here ... Guess I'll rearrange the furniture after resting for a bit."

Souta enters the house and puts the sofa from the dimensional storage on the right side of the living room and sit there.

He closes his eyes and looks up at the sky and rests. His magic power gradually recovers.

After resting for a while and after his fatigue disappears, Souta puts out table and tableware and arranges the skewers he bought on top of it.

Souta wants to have a thick-flavored meat dish with white rice, but since it's not in dimensional storage and there isn't a stall that sells it, he starts eating noodle dishes that he bought at stalls for his main course.

The noodles are somewhat wider and have shapes similar to udon rather than ramen or soba.

The soup is thick of animal stock and the toppings is grilled meat and condiments, it's a menu with somewhat strong tastes.

The richness of the soup spreads in Souta's mouth when he drinks it. According to the stall owner, it has that taste because the stock is boiled all day. Also, thanks to many kinds of vegetables in it, the odor is suppressed, moreover, the use of the skimmer gives it a thick but refreshing taste.

Souta sips the udon(tentative) all at once and finish eating.

"It feels like udon in ramen soup, but it was delicious."

At first, Souta was planning to eat skewers while sipping the udon but he finished all of it already, so he ate the skewers by themselves.

Both foods can be eaten while hot due to the the dimensional storage's effect of time suspension.

After he finished eating and having a break, Souta goes to arrange the furniture in each room.

He puts a sofa and a big table in the living room and the big room on the first floor, and a cupboard is placed in the kitchen.

In the left and right bedrooms on the second floor, Souta places a large bed, a chair and a working desk, and in each individual room he places a chair, a working desk and a bookshelf.

Considering the size of the building, the amount of furniture isn't enough, but taking into account that Souta lives alone, it more than suffices.

After he finished placing the furniture, Souta returns to the first floor and heads towards the bathroom.

The faucet is connected to the well on the back and is designed to pump the water up with a magic tool.

After pumping the water, firewood is burned outside to generate the heat for



boiling the water by transmitting the heat through the underfloor passage. The firewood is already piled up outside.

However, Souta makes a small fireball with magic and puts it in the water. Because Souta is adjusting the power, it doesn't boil the water straight away, instead he puts his hand in the water often to check the temperature, increasing it gradually.

After confirming that it's a little hot, Souta undresses and takes a bath. Although he can clean dirt or other things with magic, by getting into the bath, blood flow is improved, loosens muscles, also removes exhaustion.

"Ah, as I thought, bathes are great. I'm getting tired ... ...."

Just like that, Souta falls asleep.

"Cough! Cough! Crap! I'm drowning ... ...."

The pleasantness of the bath made Souta falls asleep, and as his body slowly slips down, hot water enters his mouth and nose, waking him up.

"Hahhh, I was more tired than I thought. I should probably get out soon."

After getting out of the bath, Souta wipes his body with a towel he takes out from dimensional storage and puts on clothes. Then he heads to the second floor bedroom.

There's a plug in the lower part of the bath, and pulling it out will drain the water, as it's a mechanism that drains the water outside via a pipe from the floor. Souta goes to the bedroom after pulling the plug.

He enters the bedroom on the left side of the second floor and dives onto the bed just like that.

And now, despite his drowsiness, Souta analyzes his current situation just like what he had at the inn.

All the immediate goals have been achieved, ranking up, money earning and base securing.

His guild rank is D, and for gold there are 1000 gold coins from the lord.

Speaking of his base, although there were some twists and turns, the mansion has been secured safely.

"Since the foundation has been made, the next thing I need is information ... Firstly, the situation of other countries, there will be lost towns and newly

created places. The elf race in particular seems to be complicated."

Souta is looking for information in the territory of the human races, information on the territory of the other races, the lore and legend of the countries, all to try to find out the past.

Also, because there are long-lived species, the possibility of meeting those who have met Souta in the past is not zero.

It's possible to find out the information that was not recorded in a document if he can meet people like that.

"First, books. So I guess I need to go to the library ... .. I'm gonna ask the guild for the library's location tomorrow."

Souta remembers the words of the dwarf elders during the previous journey.

『The books continue to store information unchanged for months and years.

There will be malicious modifications, but I still think that the information from books is correct in many cases. Human memory can be unreliable.』

Souta goes to sleep after concluding that gathering information with books is the best way to get reliable information.

# Chapter 30

When the sun rises and brightens the room, Souta wakes. He goes straight to the bathroom to wash his face with water drawn from a magic tool and then changes his clothes. Not to mention modern tools like washing machines, this world also doesn't have a magic tool for laundry or primitive laundry tools such as Tarai and washing board. Magic is used instead.

"Clean"

Among all convenient magic from Life Magic, this one is especially useful, so Souta uses it the most.

After dressing, Souta goes out and went to Edward. Edward is already awake, when he feels Souta's presence, he gets up and comes closer.

"Ed, good morning. Did you sleep well? "

Edward nods and brings his face closer. Souta pats Ed as a form of communication in the morning.

Souta casts Clean on Ed and his bedding, and then puts new food and water in the buckets.

"Ed, I'll go to the library today to investigate something, can you watch the house?"

Ed nods while eating.

Souta sits next to Ed and watches for a while, but when Ed's finished eating half of the meal, Souta gets up and strokes Ed's head.

"Just eat slowly, I'll go out soon."

When Souta heads to the gate, Ed follows.

And when Souta goes out of the gate, Ed stops.

"Thank you for seeing me off"

Ed gives a neigh and raises his right foreleg as if saying "Have a nice day."

Souta also raises his right hand to Ed.

After closing the gates, Souta locks the gate with magic.

"Lock"

It's possible to unlock this lock with magic, but the one unlocking it needs a higher level of magic than Souta.

From his bag, Souta takes out the remaining skewers from yesterday and has them for breakfast. He heads to the adventurer guild while eating. On the way, he considers going to Carena to ask about the library. But since the guild is at the center of the city, he chooses to go there instead, as it will be easier to go to the library wherever it is.

Because it's early in the morning, the adventurer guild is crowded. Requests from guilds sometimes make adventurers travel far away. Depending on the location, they might need careful preparation, so adventurers come early to confirm the request location.

Also, many come early in order to aim for a good request.

And there are adventurers that return to an inn straight away because of fatigue after requests, so they sell their materials in the morning next day. That's why there are some people at the purchase counter too.

Souta came in the morning so he could read books as soon as he knows the location of the library, but he's getting fed up by the crowdedness. Souta looks around for a vacant receptionist counter, but he still needs to wait for a while because there are people everywhere.

After a while, the wave that can be called the first wave ends. When Souta heads toward a vacant counter, Airi is the receptionist.

"Ahh, Souta-san, taking a request?"

"Ah no, I have something I want to ask. Sorry, even though this place busy at this time."

Airi shakes her head and responds with a smile.

"No no no, it's fine, the crowd has already lessened anyway! And so, what kind of appointment do you have? "

"I'd like to know if there's a library in this city. There's a little something I want to investigate."

"Investigate..... If it's about monster materials and peculiar materials that are known till date for requests, you can find them in the reference room at the back. As long as you request for it, you can see them as an adventurer."

"Fumu, that is interesting, but what I'm looking for now is the situation in other countries. I want to see books of that kind."

Airi hits her palm with her fist.

"I see, in that case, you should go to the big library. It's the big building northeast from here. You should be able to find many books there."

"Oh, that's great. By the way ... If there's the big one, does that mean there's the small one too? "

Airi nods vigorously.

"It's good that you noticed. While the numbers of books are not great and the buildings are small, there are small libraries in several places in the city. There are books that are not in the big library, so it might be good to go after you go to the big library. "

"Airi, thank you. It was helpful."

"It's fine, you are welcome anytime."

Since Souta heard what he wanted, he wanted to thank her with a gift later.

When he turns his back to Airi, there's someone shouting at him.

"Oy, you!!"

There is a muscular man wearing leather armor and carrying a large axe on his back.

The scalp is shaved, and a bandana is around his head.

Souta tries to pass through, ignoring the man.

"Oy, you bastard, how dare you ignore me!!!"

He tries to grab Souta's shoulder, but his hand cuts through the air and the man stumbled as his balance breaks.

"What the!"

When the man put out his hand, Souta is a few steps beyond that.

"Hahh, this'll be troublesome.... So, what is it? "

The adventurers in the hall are watching the two from afar.

"Tch, it seems that your movement alone is quick ... That's fine, leaving that

aside, you, how dare you have such a friendly talk with Airi-san! "

Souta tilts his head when he hears that.

"?"

"Don't feign innocence! Even with a request, it's not easy to line up just to speak with Airi-san! Moreover, to call her without an honorific, shit, don't be cheeky! Even though I'm telling you ... "

His voice gradually gets smaller, and the last part can't be heard at all.

"I don't really get it. I waited until there was a vacant receptionist. It's just by chance the free one was Airi's. And I don't really care about honorifics in the first place."

"You're supposed to use honorific ..... If I'm not mistaken, you also lined up with Airi when you registered. By chance, you say? Don't lie to me! Don't be cheeky you newbie! "

That man is a C-rank adventurer and is usually a nice guy, but he's falling in love with Airi and often ends up being unable to keep calm when she's involved. Also, although Airi usually shows businesslike smiles, he dislikes that she shows a natural smile to Souta.

"Eat this!!"

The man swings his fist at Souta as he lets out his anger.

Souta avoids the man's hand before touching him before, but this time he doesn't dodge and take the punch.

"Kyaaaa!"

Airi who's watching cries out, and the surrounding adventurers who are also watching exclaim "Ohhh!" seeing the punch.

# Chapter 31

"Kyaaaaa!"

Airi who's watching cries out, and the surrounding adventurers who are also watching exclaim "Ohhh!" seeing the punch.

Souta who receives the punch doesn't move an inch. The man who punched him is rubbing his fist.

"B-Bastard, what did you do!"

"I didn't do anything, isn't your punch just weak?"

"S-Shit! Once more, take this! "

Not learning from his experience, the man punches again, now with his other hand.

This time, Souta stops the punch with his hand before reaching his face. The man tries to pull it with the power of his whole body, but he can't move with his fist being caught.

"Gugugu, let go!"

Souta releases him just as he's told. The man who's suddenly released loses balance and falls butt first.

"What are you doing!? "

"No, as you said, I let you go and yet ... here, grab it."

Souta holds out his hand to help the man get up, and he grasps Souta's hand obediently.

The man tries to stand up by himself, but Souta forcibly raises him up to his feet.

The man recently gained the ability to be C-rank, so he can feel Souta's strength from the hand he holds.

Just by being held, the man's movement is sealed.

"So what are you gonna do? Still going? "

"N-No, it's fine already. It seems to be my mistake, I'm sorry for troubling you."

"Really? That's good then. Well then, I happen to have some tasks to do now, so

I need to go."

Souta releases his hand and leaves the guild.

The man, still stunned, checks the held hand by opening and closing it. When he notices he's attracted everyone's attention, he lowers his head to people around.

"Ummm, everyone, sorry for making a ruckus. It's just my misunderstanding. Airi-san, sorry to trouble you."

"N-No, I do not mind, but ....."

Both Airi and the crowd are worried and curious about why the man who had lost his temper and caused such a disturbance suddenly became quiet. However, as it seemed so strange, nobody could ask him.

In the time everyone hesitates to decide whether or not to ask him, the man has already left the guild.

Souta goes straight to the big library after leaving the guild. Just as Airi said, after walking to the northeast from the guild for a while, there is a big building with 『Library』 written on the entrance. It's a stone building with many small windows. The windows seem to have curtains to prevent sunlight from entering. People don't seem to get in and out much, as there's little traffic.

Souta opens the door with a profound feeling. It's full of the smell of books once Souta enters. Countless bookshelves can be seen, and there are also bookshelves lining up on second floor. Although the place restricts sunlight from coming in, it's kept bright with lighting magic tools installed in various places.

There is a counter to the right and has two librarians as receptionists. A woman wearing glasses in the back, and a man in the front. Souta chooses the closest one and goes to the counter. "Welcome, is this your first visit or have you used the library before?" "No, today is my first time." "I understand, then I will explain how to use this facility." After saying that, he gives a piece of paper to Souta.



"I will explain verbally, but if you forget, just refer that paper."

Souta nods, receiving the paper while listening to the male librarian's explanation.

"First, we will ask for one gold coin as entrance fee, although it might seem expensive, this is a deposit in case we found damage to a book, it will be returned if nothing is found."

Although the use of magical tools in various fields is expanding, the progress of technology concerning printing and binding is slow. This makes books expensive.

"Next, we don't lend books, so in principle the book can only be used inside the building. That's two of the basic rules."

When Souta thought that the explanation is lacking, the female librarian also joined the conversation.

"If you have anything you would like to ask about the books, such as searching for specific book or books about specific subject, we will answer."

Souta takes out a gold coin from his bag.

"First, here's the deposit fee. Also, I'm looking for a book about the state of affairs of each race's countries... can you look for it? "

"Please wait a moment... ...."

The male librarian starts checking the catalog.

After waiting for a while, the female librarian hands the memo paper to Souta.

"Here is the shelf number and the title of the book. It seems that reading those books will give you the information you are looking for, so please refer to it."

"Ahh, thank you."

After receiving the paper, a frustrated glare toward the female librarian can be seen from the male librarian.

"The shelf is located to the right on the second floor."

The female librarian continues guiding Souta without worrying about the glare.

"Oh, thank you. Then, I'll go."

Souta takes the stairs and looks at the shelves on the right to find the shelf in the note.

"Umm, this and this ..."

Souta takes the book that title is written on the memo.

Reading through the book, Souta gradually understands the situation of each country.

In the human territory, there were several old kingdoms that fought for dominance, but in recent years, things have been calm.

The northern empire has the most power, and the Addinal Kingdom that summoned Souta is a small country in the southern region that's inferior to other countries in war potential.

Because of that, they might be trying to summon the Heroes to turn this around and show their existence.

There are also various other large and small countries.

In the beastman territory, there is a unified state governed by three kings called the Three Beast Kings.

One nation being ruled by multiple kings is rare, but each of them governs the field they are skilled in.

Also, there were many that had negative opinions of the human race regarding the battle a thousand years ago.

However, with the change of beast king, those negative opinions gradually faded. Now, while there are still some who hate the human race, the number is gradually decreasing.

The gnomes who had originally gathered everyone for the battle of a thousand years ago died.

For that reason, now they are scattered all over the place without territory.

The dwarf tribe is located further north of the empire. They have many mines, so many countries purchase ore from them.

Moreover, they have no discrimination against other races, especially the nature of other races. They accept whoever comes, and those that leave don't leave because they are chased out.

Other countries are currently unable to catch up to the smithing ability of the dwarves.

The Dragonkin lost their hero in the fight a thousand years ago, and since then have disappeared from history.

The elves tend to hate the human race for killing their hero, but human race's hero plan to try to improve their relationship.

However, their relationship worsened, not only with the human race but also other races due to their overuse of the Iyashi Trees centuries ago.

Originally possess unsociable trait as a race, they make some restriction on the exchange with other countries that basically closes off their country.

However, some elves are leaving the country because they are disgusted by their race's unsociable nature.

Besides that, a detailed history is also written, but Souta only roughly reads this part.

# Chapter 32

After Souta reads the books for several hours, he feels his body getting stiff. He puts down the book and stretches. Cracking sounds can be heard from his body.

Finished reading all the books he took, he returns the pile of books to the shelves.

After that, Souta looks at other shelves. He doesn't have particular purpose, it just serves as a change of pace if there is an interesting book.

The books are organized into different categories that each have their own shelves. There are shelves for magic books, history books, fairy tales, academic papers, and others. Various titles are classified and arranged in their particular shelves.

Souta picks up books with titles that interest him, flipping through them for a while before returning them to their places. Then he goes to the next shelf when he loses interest.

He reaches the children's book corner like that. Beginning with picture books, stories for children, fairy tales, books for study and the like are lined up.

Souta picks one of them and starts flipping through it just like with the other books.

However, unlike other books, he doesn't return the book back to the shelves, instead, he starts rereading it slowly from the beginning.

The sluggish expression in his faces is nowhere to be seen, it's showing a grim expression instead.

"This is the end of the battle a thousand years ago, what the..."

The title of the book is 『The Legend of the Seven Heroes』. It is a story about the battle of Souta and the other heroes against the Demon King a thousand years ago.

When he finished reading that book, Souta looked for similar books and read it,

but in general, every book has the same content.

In the story, Souta is bathed in the blood of the Demon King and loses his mind because of dark magic.

Then with his own hands, he kills the Dragonkin, Elven, and Beastman heroes one after the other, and finally returns to the earth with the princess' repatriation magic.

The princess also lost her life by using repatriation magic.

There is still a gap in Souta's memories from the chance given by everyone to deal the killing blow to the killing blow itself.

However, it's like looking something through a fog, although hazy, Souta still remembers a bit of detail on the memories.

Everyone in the battle fought to the end of their ability and was exhausted.

It's easier to fall to darkness if the body is exhausted. Moreover, the blood of the Demon King was used as a medium, so its effect is enormous. Normally, Souta had multiple light-attribute equipments as precautionary measures against the dark magic of the demon kingdom and had given multiple magic spells to increase magic resistance.

Furthermore, as a Hero, Souta received 『Light God's Protection』.

Even though it was dark magic that used the blood of the Demon King as a medium, it was hard to imagine that Souta fell into the darkness with the magic cast by the dying Demon King.

Besides, Souta thinks that the idea that the Demon King's blood was used as a medium is wrong.

Although he used unique skills and cut the Demon King over and over, he has no memory of blood coming out, and his sword did not get bloody.

Because of that, it's hard to believe that blood of the amount that could bathe his body came out when he dealt the killing blow.

Furthermore, the biggest issue, if everyone died and repatriated, who made this story? Though if it's only a fairy tale, then it can't be helped.

That is the biggest question, Souta thinks that he can find out the truth of the story if he can find someone from that era who is still alive.

Maybe one of the heroes is still actually alive, or maybe someone else.

"The closest from here is Elves Territory ....."

As a millennium has passed, it may not be possible to obtain any information. Still, the possibility of getting some piece of truth is not zero. Souta thinks that as he goes back to the reception after returning the book.

"Oh, are you going ... did anything happen? Your face looks scary."

On the way home, there is only the female librarian, the male librarian seems to be organizing bookshelves.

"No, it's nothing. Thank you for your assistance before, can I withdraw the deposit? "

"Yes, thank you very much. We will look forward to your visit in the future." After Souta receives the gold coin, he opens the door and leaves.

As the day getting late and the traffic is decreasing, Souta's legs bring him straight towards the next destination.

When he arrives at the target shop, he opens the door.

The entrance bell rings, and the clerk reacts.

"Yes, yes, welcome... Oya, it's Souta-san. Do you want to use our equipment again? "

Usually, Elmia is the one who tends to the store, but it's Carena today.

"No, I come to talk to you today."

Carena looks surprised, but her expression soon changes to a smile.

"Haha, if you are happy to talk with such an old woman. It's fine then, let's hear it. I will close the store so wait a moment."

Carena flips the sign on the door to closed, locks the door and closes the curtains.

"Now then, let's go to the back room. I will make some tea. Though because Elmia is not here, the taste may not be good."

From there, Souta is guided to a reception room separated from the working room he went to before.

"Sit down and wait for a bit, I will make some tea."

Carena goes out of the room, and Souta who's left alone in the room is surveying his surroundings.

On the ceiling there is a lighting magic tool, there are two sofas facing each other, and there is a low table in between.

A vase is placed on the table in the corner of the room, it is decorated with flowers, and the cleaning is also thorough.

While looking at the room, Carena comes back.

"Sorry to keep you waiting, here is the tea and while simple, also sweets."

Dark colored tea and delicious cookies are lined up on the table.

Sipping a bit of that tea, Souta spits it back.

"Cough! Cough! What is this?!"

Souta returns the cup to the table and wipes his mouth with a handkerchief he takes out.

"Oya? Is it bad? Strange, the way I brewed it is no different from the way Elmia does."

Carena drinks the black tea with a cool face.

Souta eats the cookies to remove the bad taste. It tastes good, probably the best cookies Souta ever ate.

"The heck with this gap..."

"Ah, those cookies were baked by Elmia. If I have to say, that girl will surely become a good bride."

She crosses her arms and nods.

Souta takes water out of his bag and drinks it.

"So, I have something I want to know, is it fine?"

"Hmm? Ahh it's fine... So, what is it? Is it something about alchemy? Or is it about Elmia? "

Souta shakes his head.

"It's not that, or rather, isn't it that you just want to talk about Elmia..... What I want to hear is about the country you come from, the country of the elves."

Carena stops drinking the tea and returns the cup to the saucer.

"... What on Halderia do you want to know about that country? "

Her expression becomes sterner.

"I don't want to know anything too difficult. I want to hear if something big has happened since the battle a thousand years ago, and I want to know your current impression of the country."

# Chapter 33

"I don't want to know anything too difficult. I want to hear if something big has happened since the battle a thousand years ago, and I want to know your current impression of the country."

"A thousand years ago? As expected, even I don't live that long, so it's only what I know from old story."

Carena shows a dubious face when hearing a thousand years ago.

"I don't mind, I'll leave the order of the talk to you to make it easier to you, so can you please? "

"Fine then. Ummm, let's first talk about the impression of the country right now. Originally, even with their unsociable nature, they still interacted normally with other countries. That changed after the incident with Iyashi Tree I told you before."

"Ah, I remember that. The tree was endangered, so the distribution is restricted."

Carena nods.

"Yes, but it was not only distribution that was restricted, but also people coming and going."

Carena sips the tea to wet her tongue. Seeing that, Souta remembers the taste and grimaces.

"If you're not a qualified merchant, have letter of recommendation from many countries, or are a strong adventurer with fame, it will take a long time just for inspection."

"That ... .. have become troublesome."

When Souta went there before, he had gone in smoothly without worry of anything troublesome happening.

"I will continue ..... That's why the unsociable race became more closed, as the amount of interaction declined, they came to look down on other races. This is called Elven Supremacy. And there were many elves captured by humans to be slaves, that's why a thousand years ago, there was particularly strong



hostility toward humans."

Carena shakes her head.

"I was acquainted with people of other races, and of course, this includes humans. It was 150 years ago that I was disgusted with Elven Supremacy and left the country. Then, after moving to several places, I felt attached to this city and decided to stay."

"Then, you are ..."

"That's right, I hate the current elven kingdom. Of course I know about slavery and feel irritated from it as well, but you won't understand each other without looking at other people, right? "

Carena pours the tea from the teapot, and she keeps drinking even while talking.

Carena tries to pour the tea into Souta's cup although it's still not empty, but Souta stops her with his hand.

"I. Don't. Want. It!"

"Is that so? Even though it's delicious..."

Rather than her taste buds, the scope of the word 『Delicious』 is vast for elves.

"I don't know what you want to do, but I think it's better to not have a high expectation if you go there."

"That's fine, it's not like I particularly want to go there. Besides that, is there anything else that happened after the battle a thousand years ago? "

Carena raises her gaze upward, and start talking while thinking.

"Ummm... since the elven hero was killed by the hero from a different world in a fight a thousand years ago, we have no goodwill for the people who summoned it. The relationship also worsened and then ... something happened ... .... "

Carena presses her eyebrows with her index finger to try to dig out the memories she almost remembers.

"Surely my grandmother was saying .... Yes, certainly the princess, the fourth or the fifth, at that time, complained about improving relationships with people, but the other noble and royalty didn't like the idea. It was said that it was anti-state philosophy and she was to be executed. "

"Executed...? Do you say that Dinarius was killed!!"

"Yeah yeah that, that is her name ... It surprises me that you know. Even I forgot her name."

Carena's surprised because he knows the princess' name, and she says nothing about him shouting.

"Yeah, rather... .. was the princess really killed? "

"No, it seemed the king pardoned her out of mercy and it was canceled. But the nobles were not satisfied. So she choose to get sealed in the Demon Crystal by herself."

"No matter the race, the nobles are irritating..."

"The reason seems to be that she is a child of a maid, and although she had a right to become successor, she was not from the primary line. And despite all that, she overstepped her authority by appealing to make peace with humans."

Souta stares at the table without responding.

"You look scary .... Do you have some kind of attachment to the princess somehow? If you want to see her, you might as well go to the elven kingdom."

Souta raises his head suddenly and sees Carena looking at him with a smile.

"I'm amazed by your surprised face. I said she was sealed, so she is still alive inside that crystal even now."

"Even now ... Is she not released? "

"Yes yes, It seems that her sins would be forgiven after sealed for two hundred to three hundred years. It might be long from human perspective, but it's not that long for elves."

Souta continues to ask questions with a dubious face.

"If she was already forgiven, why was she still trapped in Demon Crystal? Does it have something to do with nobles? "

"That is... .. I cannot remember what it was. The nobles seem not doing anything about it... .. Oh yes, they certainly did a liberation ceremony, but it seems it was a failure."

This time she thinks while grinding her head with both hands.

"..... Umu~, I can't remember. I heard it hundreds of years ago, it's great that I can remember that much. I want you to praise me."

Carena stands up and proudly puffs out her chest.

"Sigh ... .. it is certainly so, but it's still better if you remembered the important

things. So, can I even see that crystal? "

"You should be able to see it if you can enter the country. It is decorated in the cathedral, but it is open to the public and travelers as well."

"So the problem is whether or not I can enter the country."

Carena nods vigorously, as opposed to her playful attitude from before, her face turns serious.

From that expression, Souta knows it will be difficult for a human to enter the country.

"You will go, won't you? It can't be helped. I don't know if it will work or not, but I will write a letter of introduction for you. Since I'm an alchemist whose name is quite well-known, perhaps an entry permit will come down."

"Really!? Please, I'd like to increase the chance of it even by a bit."

Souta lowers his head so much that his forehead gets on the table.

"You can stop acting like that. I understand .... In the first place, I would still write it even if you don't lower your head."

"Even then I would still lower my head, after all, you have been taking care of me a lot."

"Hahaha, saying something like that, you're giving me goosebumps. Since you are going that far, let's write it at once. I will also put the name of my master in the letter of introduction so that your chances will rise a bit. I will write it tonight, so you'd better come get it tomorrow."

Like that, Carena wears glasses, gets a fountain pen, paper, envelope, and wax and starts preparing to write the letter.

Souta bows for the last time and leaves the room quietly.

# Chapter 34

Souta bows for the last time and leaves the room quietly.

When he tries to leave the store, he almost hits Elmia.

"Oops, sorry."

"Ah, Souta-san, I am sorry about this! "

Elmia quickly lower her head.

"Did you come here for Grandmother? "

"Hm? Yeah, I've something to ask about the country of Elves."

Elmia body trembles.

"A-Are you going to the country of elves? "

"Yeah, I'm going there, though I'll probably have a hard time entering the country."

"Is that so... Um, er ... it's nothing after all"

She tries to say something, but stops and lowers her head.

"Hey is there something that's worrying you ....."

Souta tries to call out to Elmia with a doubt.

"Souta-san, please be careful when you go."

However, Elmia just ends the conversation and enters the shop in a hurry.

"It seems there is something considering her behavior ... Well, if she doesn't want to say it, it can't be helped."

Souta scratches his head and watches the door for a while before he leaves the store.

Although the sun already completely set, Souta heads straight to the adventurer's guild without going home.

When he enters the guild, he can hear the noise of bustle from the bar.

Although there are adventurers in the hall, most of them are only exchanging information after finishing the report of the request. There are many reception desks vacant.

After looking around to check that adventurer from the afternoon isn't there,

Souta heads to the receptionist.

"Oh, Souta-san. Welcome back, have you been to the library? "

When she confirms that Souta is approaching, she smiles and greets him.

"Ah, I found out what I wanted to know. Thank you."

"N-No, not at all! You can come and ask anytime! "

Since Souta thanks her with a smile, Airi is surprised and stutters.

"So, what kind of business do you have this time? "

"I heard adventurers go to report to the guild if they want to leave the city? I came to report that."

Airi is wide-eyed with surprise.

"Ehhh!! Souta-san, y-you are leaving this city?"

Souta puts his index finger on his lips.

"Sssshh, you're too loud. I don't mind if others know about it, but I don't feel like spreading it."

Airi covers her mouth with her hands quickly.

"Ahh, s-sorry."

"I'll come back since I bought a house in this city, but I think it'll be vacant for a while."

"How long will you go? Also, where are you going? Also, also, what do you mean you bought a house? "

Airi forgets her blunder a while ago and asks questions in rapid succession.

"W-Wait a moment. I can't answer if you ask all at once, calm down."

Souta restrains Airi who leans over too far with both hands and tries to calm her down.

"Uuu, sorry, I am ... .."

"I'll answer your question one by one, but I don't know how long it'll be in the first place. I might return soon, but it's only if there isn't a problem getting there."

To calm Airi down, Souta talks a little slowly.

"Next is where I'm going, I'm going to the country of elves. I don't know if I'll be permitted to go in or not though."

"That means if it doesn't go well, it might take years before you can come back..."

Although the country of elves is closer than the other races' countries, it still takes a long time to get there, moreover, immigration control will sometimes take months.

"Well, who knows. Then, as for the house, I got it cheaply from some connection. Though it's only for this one time."

"..... Somehow, after hearing the other thing, the thing about the house seems normal. Normally I should be surprised hearing that."

"I-Is that so... Anyway, please tell your superior about it. There are other places I need to go to, so I'm going now."

Souta goes out of the guild without waiting for Airi's reply in order to avoid being called to the guild master room.

Souta's next destination is the real estate agency. When he opens the door, the lights are still on. Fuura is doing office work inside.

"Welcome, but we are already closed today, please come again tomorrow." She says without raising her head as she continues working.

"Sorry that I came after closing time. There's something I want to ask from you."

Fuura raises her head as she heard a familiar voice.

"Oh, Souta-san. If it's you who bought the house that didn't sell for so long, you're welcome anytime. What do you need? Ah, you can sit over there."

After sitting down on the chair at the counter, Souta starts talking.

"Didn't sell ... Ahh, never mind that. I want to ask something related to that house."

Fuura puts the documents together and sets them aside, she corrects her posture to listen to Souta's words.

"What is it? Is there something wrong with the house? "

Souta shakes his head lightly.

"No, it's not about something like that. I've decided to go somewhere this time, so I thought I need someone to manage the house while I'm away. Of course, I'll pay the management fee."

Fuura places her hand on her mouth and thinks while supporting her head with her hand.

"Ummm, I don't mind doing that, but for how long and how much should I do?"

"I don't know for how long, but I think it will be a while. For management, it's good enough to go there and see the situation, open the windows and change the air."

Fuura now thinks with crossed arms.

"Wait a minute, you said you don't know for how long..... That is the one that affects the payment fee the most."

"If you take care of it, I'll pay two gold coins per month. I'll give you 10 gold coins as a deposit, and if I come back earlier, you can return the excess."

"I'll do it! I wonder if patrolling twice a week, ventilation, and simple cleaning is good enough."

Since it's more or less the same as before the house was sold, it doesn't burden Fuura much. So there's no choice but to accept, especially with such an incredible payment.

Souta also knows about this, so he gives conditions she won't refuse.

# Chapter 35

"Now then, I will ask you on this condition."

Souta and Fuura both sign the contract that she creates on the spot, stuff like one hour minimum of patrol and cleaning frequency and the degree of cleaning are written in the contract.

"Yesss, leave it to me. Because it's what I always did, there won't be any excuses if I make a mistake."

Fuura has the main contract, while Souta keeps a copy.

"Well then, you can start after lunch time tomorrow. As for the crime prevention, as long as you enter normally with key it shouldn't be triggered." While saying that, Souta hands the gold coins to Fuura.

"I understand. But I will go to the mansion tomorrow morning just in case, and it will be great if you can explain again in detail at that time."

"Ahh, in that case, since I won't depart that early, you can come by without hurrying."

"Okayy."

Fuura jokingly gives a salute while sending out Souta.

The night is getting late, as Souta said to Fuura, and he's going to leave the city tomorrow, so he wants to give some words of farewell to other acquaintances.

Souta takes out the skewer from his bag and goes to the inn while eating.

There are few people around and most of the stalls on the street are closed.

Souta thinks of going to the 『Sleeping Bird Pavilion』 because it's close. But he changes his mind after realizing that he might not be able to meet the lord if it gets too late, and so he heads to the lord's mansion instead.

It's gotten darker but because the number of people around has also decreased, Souta runs through without much effort.

When the lord's mansion comes into view, Souta gradually slows down. He's just walking normally by the time he reaches the front gate.



One of the guards calls out when he notices Souta.

"Oh, if it's not Souta-dono. What kind of business might you have at a time like this? "

As the benefactor of the family on the household he serves, he receives Souta with a favorable attitude.

"Ah, since I decided to leave this town, I want to give my farewell, but.... because it's already late, can you just tell him that for me?"

"P-Please wait a moment. I will go inside and convey this to Elvas-sama. I humbly ask you to wait."

After the guard says so, he runs and goes inside.

Souta looks at the other guard who's left behind.

"I'm sure it won't be long, please wait. We would be scolded if we were to just send Souta-dono home like this."

"Is that so?"

Thinking that it's unlikely that Elvas angry, Souta tilts his head.

"I think that Elvas-sama wouldn't be enraged, but nonetheless, we still need to be cautious so we don't get detained. "

As they are talking about such thing, the sound of running can be heard, then the door is opened forcefully.

Elina is on the other side. Behind her is Elvas who's out of breath and the previous guard.

Elina runs to Souta after seeing where he is.

"Souta-sama, are you going out of this city?"

Elina looks up at Souta with a sad face.

"Souta-dono, are you seriously leaving? But you just bought a house."

Follows Elvas.

"No, I'm not moving out, just leaving temporarily. Though it might be a while before I can get back home."

"I'm relieved to hear that you will return, but if you are going to leave for a long time, I want to hear the details. Can I ask you to come in? "

"... .. I understand, I'll go in."

Unable to leave Elina who still looks sad and refuse the invitation from the lord himself, Souta enters the house after the two people.

In the usual reception room, sat Elvas and Elina, and across them is Souta.

"Now then, can you tell me where you will go?"

Next to him, Elina also nods.

"This story, how many times have I told this story.... To put it briefly, I will leave for the country of the elves around noon tomorrow. Because it's quite far, and I don't know how many problems I'll get to enter the country, I still don't know when I can come back."

Elvas furrows his brow.

"The country of the elves ..... That's far. Considering the immigration control, it'll be some months at the earliest? May I ask what your objective going there is? "

"More or less. I can only say that it's a personal business, and it's not something I'd like to talk about."

"Is that so? Well, whatever your reason is, we can't bind our adventurers in any way, so we won't stop you, but be sure to come back. I still not thank you enough."

"Yes, Souta-sama absolutely, absolutely must return. I still also need to repay Souta-sama! "

Elina who kept her head down until some times ago says this with resolute expression.

"I see, I'm looking forward to it. It looks like you're able to run just fine, so you'll surely return your physical condition before I return."

Elina's cheeks slightly redden and she turns her head down.

"Mouu, Souta-sama is a tease."

Elvas pleasantly looks at the two's interaction.

"Oh, that's right. Souta-dono, I don't know how effective it will be, but I'll write a letter of introduction to help you enter the country. Because this city does some trade with the elves, this might help you."

"That'll help. Carena is already writing me one but I can't get a noble's letter from anyone else."

"Umu, I will write it today and deliver it to your mansion tomorrow morning. Please wait till then."

Elvas starts to preparing to write.

"Well then, I need to go home, since I'm worried about my horse there."

"Then, I will see you off."

Following Souta, Ellina also stands up.

Elvas, Elina, and the servants of the mansion all see off Souta from the lord's mansion.

Souta thought to stay in the inn but decides to go straight back to his house because, just as he told Elina, he's concerned about Ed.

# Chapter 36

Souta checks the magic lock once he reaches his house. It's still locked.

"Unlock"

Souta touches the gate and releases the magic, and the lock opens with a 'click'.

When Souta steps into the garden, Ed rushes over to Souta.

"Oh, Ed. Thank you for watching the house, did someone come? "

Asks Souta to Ed while stroking his back.

Ed thinks a little, and then shakes his head.

Of course, there is no one who can pass through Souta's magic and enter, but besides that, there was also no one that came before the gate.

"Is that so? Well, it doesn't look like there is anyone in the first place, and nobody will know if they don't peek inside or see people going in and out."

Souta stops stroking Ed, closes the gate and locks it again.

"Lock"

After confirm that the gate is properly locked, Souta heads towards Ed's bed and casts magic to clean everything around him.

Souta sits down on the fur and is followed by Ed, who sits next to him.

He takes out the fruit from dimensional storage and lightly throws it to Ed who skillfully catches it with his mouth.

"Ed, we just moved here and have only lived here for a day, but we need to leave again tomorrow."

Ed listens to Souta's words while eating the fruit.

"This time it'll be a long trip unlike when we went to the mountain. Will you come with me?"

Ed quickly swallows the fruit and gives a loud neigh to express his joy to travel with Souta again.

Noticing the feeling behind the neigh, Souta smiles as well.

"Is that so? That's good then. We'll leave before lunchtime tomorrow so please have a nice rest tonight."

Souta puts Ed's dinner and drinking water in the clean buckets.

Ed begins to eat again, and after stroking his head, Souta goes into the house.

In the living room, Souta takes out the remaining stall food and eats it as dinner.

Yesterday, Souta ate udon in ramen soup. Today, he'll eat curry-like sauce on something that's like baked bread.

The impression is like naan with curry, however, the curry-like sauce has a unique taste. The sweetness is strong, but it also has a somewhat sour taste. Although the taste is satisfactory, the amount isn't. To compensate, Souta takes out the meat skewers, sandwiches it between the bread then eats it.

"Delicious!"

The taste of the meat and the sauce mix together perfectly.

"I tried it because I ate something similar in Japan, but .... this is seriously good." Long ago, there was a limited time offer at the neighborhood curry shop and Souta liked them.

Souta still has some breads stored inside the dimensional storage, and he smiles when he realizes he can make this again.

Souta makes another one then heads to the bath after finishing his meal. He boils the bath using magic just like yesterday, he then enters it and thinks about tomorrow's schedule while immersing himself in the water.

"First, I'll receive a letter of introduction tomorrow morning, and then I'll get a letter of introduction from Carena. I also need to procure food and water for the trip, and probably some books for killing time during travel. Should I also get a blanket? Since I might not be able to take out the tent every time."

As it's getting late, Souta gets out of the bath and goes to his bedroom to sleep.

In the morning, Souta wakes up before the sun rises. He goes outside to check on the gate and unlock it for when the lord's messenger arrives.

"I should exercise my body once in a while."

Ed is still sleeping, so after Souta puts new food and water in the buckets, he moves away and takes out an iron sword from the dimensional storage.

He prepares his body by closing his eyes and taking a deep breath once.

Once Souta opens his eyes, he starts doing practice swings without making any voice.

While Souta keeps swinging, Ed wakes up and eats the newly prepared meal, but his eyes are following Souta.

By the time Ed finishes his meal, Souta also stops his practice. The sun has already completely risen.

As he takes out the towel and wipes his sweat, he notices that a carriage came. The man gets down from the carriage and talks to Souta.

"Excuse me, is this the house of adventurer Souta-sama?"

"That's right, you are?"

Souta already made a guess, but he still asks for confirmation.

"My name is Barth, I'm Elvas-sama's, the lord of this town's, messenger. I'd like to have a meeting with Souta-sama."

Barth knows that Elina was saved thanks to Souta, but he'd never seen Souta.

"Is that so? Well, I'm that Souta you're looking for...."

"Hahh? Ehhe, no, that..... I apologize for being rude!!!"

Barth quickly lowers his head to the ground.

He just by chance happened to have morning duty, so the lord ordered him to send the message, but he doesn't know the face of the one who saved the lord's granddaughter. Realizing he's been rude, his face turns pale.

Souta scratches his head and then speaks to Barth.

"For now, raise your head. I'm not angry..... In the first place, you've never seen me in person, so it's not strange if you make a mistake."

"No, but to have that attitude to Elvas-sama's important friend ... .."

Barth replies with his head still down.

"Like I said, raise your head."

Souta holds his side and forces him to stand up.

"Even if I'm a friend, I'm just a mere adventurer. You don't need to take it that far."

"No, but"

"That. is. fine! Fulfill your duty first before that. Elvas entrusted something to you, didn't he? "

He looks relieved for a while, then he rushes back to the carriage and pulls out his bag. From there, he takes out a single envelope.

"I-I apologize for my mistake. Here is the letter of introduction Elvas-sama told me to give you."

He lowers his head again as he holds out the letter in front of Souta.

"Oh, thank you. Please give my thanks to Elvas."

Souta turns his back and tries to return to the house, but Barth hurriedly speaks.

"Umm! That, there is still something else ... .. I was told to ask the specific time of your departure....."

"Ah, that's right. I haven't decide the specific time yet, but I'll depart as soon as I ready. Well, maybe around noon? It's not really specific, but that's the closest."

Barth lowers his head again.

"Thank you very much! I will tell Elvas-sama that. I'm sorry for stopping you." After saying that, he goes back to the carriage again and heads back to the lord's mansion.

"How can I say this, he seems easy to get carried away....."

Mutters Souta while putting the letter of introduction in the dimensional storage.

Ed who came near Souta unnoticed snorts, agreeing with him.

# Chapter 37

Just as Souta tries to go back in, Fuura arrives.

"Souta-san, good morning. I came just like what we promised yesterday."  
Souta is surprised that there's another guest. Furthermore, it's Fuura.

"Ehh? What is this? That face..... Did you by any chance... forget that I was going to come here? "

He knows that he had actually forgotten but he keeps it to himself and quickly tries to regain his composure.

"Of course I remember. I'm just a little surprised that another guest came right away."

Fortunately, there is quite a distance between them, so Fuura is unable to see the cold sweat on Souta's forehead.

"Hmmp, well that's fine. For the time being, crime prevention, was it? Let me hear more about it."

"I understand. I'll give you the key before leaving. Because I haven't change the key of the house, the crime prevention will be on the gate. Let's go to it."

After Souta regains his composure, he guides Fuura to the gate.

"Using this key, you can lock the gate."

As they go outside of the gate, Souta takes out a key from his pocket and lets magic power pass through without Fuura noticing. He sets the locking range to encompass the gate and the stone wall around the mansion.

"Hmm? What do you mean? This is not this gate key right? "

"Don't worry about that. For now, try turning the key in front of the gate while imagining that you're locking the gate."

Fuura takes the key and does as Souta told her to, though she does it with an incredulous expression.

A 'click' sound comes from the gate, and it's locked.

"Ehh? H-How? Even though there isn't a keyhole! "



Fuura jumps back a step from surprise, and she starts looking at the key, the gate and Souta's face in turn.

Since it looks funny, Souta laughs.

"Surprised? It's a magic item, and there's lock magic in it. The range is around the mansion centered on this gate."

"A-Around the mansion? It's not just a key to lock the gate? "

Fuura is even more surprised by Souta's remarks, and her hair looks like it's puffed out.

"Yeah, well, it's sort of like that. Once locked, it'll be hard to enter even if they try to climb the wall."

"I don't quite understand, but you are amazing. If only I had this..."

It's a job well done for Souta who's able to make Fuura surprised beyond expectation.

"If you use this key, you can come in without problems, but if you try to enter using brute force, you'll be hindered by the magic wall. I guess this is enough for crime prevention. It's not like I'll leave behind anything important in it. Now then, can you open it again? "

Fuura opens the lock and returns the key to Souta.

"I understand about crime prevention now. Is there anything else I can do according to yesterday's contract? If there is something, I will change it accordingly."

"... No, it's okay. Even if it was created on the spot yesterday, the content is fine. There isn't a problem on my end."

After thinking for a bit, Souta shakes his head.

"Really? It's fine for me too. Umm... You're not going to depart right away, right? What about the key? "

"I plan to leave late in the morning and I'll bring the key to the store before that."

"I got it. I'll stay in the store around that time, I'll be waiting."

Once Fuura turns her back to Souta, she starts making a motion similar to when she used the key before.

Fuura isn't the last guest, as once she leaves, another guest comes.

Fuura leaves and heads to the left, while the new guest comes from the right.

"Good morning Souta-san."

It's Milfa who arrives.

"Milfa, huh... There's a lot of visitors today. Have you heard about me going on a trip? "

"Yes, after Souta-san came, there was a report for me and guild master from Airi. I heard that you will go to the country of elves..."

Milfa's face looks grim. It looks like she feels the same as Carena about the state of her homeland.

"Yeah, I also already heard from Carena about how hard it's to enter the country and that there are many elves that dislike humans."

She shakes her head while showing a bitter smile.

"No, if it's you, a warning is most likely will be pointless. Today, I came to hand you the letter of introduction from the guild master."

She gives a single envelope just like Barth.

"Ummm, there is an adventurer guild in that country, so this should make it easier for you to enter even if it's just a little."

"This will help. I've troubled a lot of people."

Souta puts the letter he receives in the back pocket of his pants.

"A lot? Are there any other letters of introduction? "

"Elvas, this one from Guran, and then from Carena, which I need to get from her place. Since each letter of introduction comes from different position, one of them will surely help."

"Before I know, to be an acquaintance of Carena-san is... Somehow, Souta-san is going down a road where ordinary people take years in only a few days."

Says Milfa with a little bit of amazement in her voice.

"Is that so? I don't know what's normal..... Well, everyone's different. There are slow ones, but there are also the fast ones."

"Hahh, for some reason, that has quite the persuasive power coming from Souta-san..... Fufufu, to also mind the small details and report to the guild when you want to travel for a long time, it's so like you, Souta-san."

Souta tilts his head.

"Ara, is it not obligatory to report? I feel like I heard that long ago, but ... was it a misunderstanding? "

He remembers what he heard from a companion on his previous journey. That's why Souta went to report.

"Ummm, I heard that there were such things in the past, but now it is optional."

"Was it so? Then is there any difference if I report? "

"If you still report it, it will help us because we can grasp the adventurer who is based in this guild."

Milfa smiles at Souta who is scratching his head.

"... .. Anyway, I will leave the city for a while so please tell Guran for me once again. Also, there isn't a thank you for the letter of introduction."

"I understand. Then, if you will excuse me."

"Yeah, later..... Thank you for taking the trouble to deliver the letter, Milfa."

Souta bows to Milfa who is going to return as thanks.

"Ehhh, no..... You're welcome."

Milfa is surprised for a moment, but then her smiles return and she bows once again before leaving.

Souta goes into the house after Milfa's figure disappears, and he proceeds to bathe to wash off his sweat.

Ed goes back to bed to sleep for a short time until Souta comes out.

# Chapter 38

After Souta finishes changing his clothes, he goes out to prepare for his trip. He also brings Ed, along with the carriage, because there are a lot of things to buy.

The stores are already open, and the town is already full of activity. To begin with, Souta buys fresh foods such as fruits, vegetables, meat and other foods from food stalls.

Next, he goes to the clothing shop to buy processed fur for Ed.

In addition, Souta also purchases some lanterns for nighttime lighting.

Unlike before, Souta is considering the possibility of coming into contact with others as it will be a long journey, so they also purchase tools for camouflage traveling.

Some of the luggage from shopping is loaded in the carriage, instead of dimensional storage.

After completing a series of shopping and delivering the key to Fuura, Souta goes to Carena's shop on foot.

In the shop, Carena and Elmia are tending to the shop together.

Noticing the sound of the door opened, the gaze of the two gather at Souta.

"Souta, finally you came. I finished the letter of introduction, see? "

Carena hands over two letters of introduction to Souta.

"The brown envelope is for the checkpoint. The red one is for my master, please pass it as soon as possible. Her name is Narasu."

"I understand, thank you."

"Then, this girl has something to say, please listen."

By Carena's word, Elmia starts talking timidly.

"Umm, I have a little request..... This letter, I would like you to hand it to my mother."

"I don't mind that, but I don't know whether I can meet her or not."

Answers Souta while receiving the letter.

"Yes, that's fine. From what grandmother said, she should be practicing under Narasu-sama too, please do if you meet her."

"Okay, Carena has taken care of me in various ways. This much is no problem."

"Are you going soon?"

Souta nods while puts away the letter.

"Yeah, I thought that I should leave before noon. Having a meal while traveling is quite nice."

"Be careful when you go. Not only entering the country, there are many places that are hard to get through like the forest or pass that, a big valley."

"Souta-san, may good fortune accompany your step."

Elmia says the safe journey prayer specific to elves, complete with the pose.

"Thank you, I will be going soon. I will come here again when I return, so I'll let you know about the letter at that time."

Shopping, letter of introduction, house management. Souta who finishes all his errands goes straight to the west gate.

However, on the way, he sees 『Sleeping Bird Pavilion』 and decides to make a side trip to the inn.

He arrives at the inn, however, different from usual, when he enters, the one who greets him is not Miri, but Milfana.

"Ara, welcome home Souta-san.... or not. Welcome."

Souta doesn't mind Milfana's mistake and just looks around.

"Is Miri not here today? That's odd."

He feels strange because whenever he comes, it's always Miri who greets him.

"I asked her to shop before noon, that girl is surprisingly strong."

"Is that so? Today I came to say farewell, but....."

Milfana tilts her head to think, and then hits her palm with her fist.

"Ah, I see. It's because you are moving, congratulations."

"Thank you, but this is different... I decided to leave the city for a while. I'm thinking of saying farewell because I've been taken care of so much by the people of this inn."

Milfana is surprised from Souta's explanation.

"W-When will you go?"

"All my preparation is done, so I'm on the way now."

"So fast ... ...."

"I was taken care of in various ways, please tell this to the other two too. I actually want to ask for Gordon's dish for this trip, but I don't have much time, it's almost busy time too for him."

"That's right... isn't it?"

Milfana raises her face after thinking a little.

"Can you tell me where you'll go if you don't mind?"

"It's country of elves. I think I won't be able to return for a while ... please stay healthy all of you, well then."

"It's far... please be careful."

Souta holds his hand out for a handshake with Milfana, and they part after the handshake.

Once he leaves the inn, he goes straight to the west gate without any more side trips this time.

When he arrives at the gate, Dan and Elina are there to see Souta off. He stops the carriage next to them.

"Souta-sama, I'll be lonely, but please come back and see me again when you come home. This, please eat this on your journey."

Elina gives him a small pouch. It's warm, and there is a sweet scent wafting out from it.

"Sweets, right?"

"Yes, it is cookies. Because I was helped by maids when making this, it should be tasty, probably... ...."

Souta opens the package and eats a piece.

"Unn, it's good. Thank you, I'll have it on the way."

He closes it and puts it in his bag, while caressing Elina's head with his other hand.

"Ehehe, I'm glad that you like it."

She squints and blushes.

"Souta-dono, Elvas-sama has work to do, so he can't see you off, but he asked me to tell you that he wishes you to return safely."

"Ah, thank you to you too, Dan."

Souta and Dan exchange a handshake.

"Wait.....! Souta-san.....!!!"

From the distance, Miri comes running and shouting.

The three people who are surprised by the voice stand still waiting for Miri to approach.

"Hahh, hahh, wait, hahh, please, hahh, hahh."

Miri tries to talk right away, but her breathing prevents her from talking properly.

"I'll be waiting, so for now, calm your breathing first."

Miri breathes deeply several times to calm her breathing just as Souta told her.

"I heard from mom that Souta-san will go to a faraway place soon, so I came in a hurry."

"I was going to tell you, but you were shopping, so I just asked Milfana to convey it to you."

"Mou, I was surprised you know? To suddenly going to the country of elves ... Huh? Elina-chan also came to see you off, are the two of you acquaintances?" They seem to know each other; they're both waving their hands.

"I received the request from the lord, we met at that time."

Souta responds instead of Elina so that she doesn't blurt out about the medicine.

"I see. I got into the room when Ojiichan explaining the request."

Elina understands Souta's intention and matches her story.

"Ehh, is that so? I got acquainted with Souta-san when he stayed at my place."

This time, it's Miri who explains when they become an acquaintance.

"So did Miri come to see me off? Sorry to bother you."

"It's fine, I was asked by my father to pass this to you. Souta-san, this is a dish that my father made in a hurry. He thought you would be pleased because you like Father's cooking."

Miri passes a lunchbox to Souta. It's still warm.

"Oh, I'm glad. Thank you, I'll eat it as my lunch."

Just like he did to Elina, Souta strokes Miri's head.

"Fufufu, you are welcome."

Souta laments that he only considers her a child while he pats her, but he decides to ignore it since she looks happy.

"Both—no—all of you, thank you. Then I'm going now."

He puts on the coach seat the gifts he received from the two and says goodbye.

"Yes, please take care."

"Please come to the dining room again when you're back."

The two called out while Dan gives a salute.

Souta holds the reins and speaks to Ed.

"Ed, this will be a long trip, but I'm counting on you."

As Ed answers with a neigh, the two leave the city.



# Chapter 39

As his departure was before lunch, Souta can't stand his hunger anymore and takes out the lunchbox Miri gave him.

In the lunchbox, there are meat hotdogs where the baked meat is squeezed between bread.

Each one is quite large and there are three packed inside.

For the seasoning of the meat, spices and salty-and-sweet sauce were used. The sauce fits well with the vegetables that are also sandwiched with the meat. As he bites into it, a compliment leaks out naturally.

"Delicious....."

Souta considers it the tastiest hot dog he's ever had.

In Japan, cooking technology is already developed, and materials and seasonings are diverse, but Gordon's outstanding skill makes up for that. Souta finishes it all in no time despite the size.

Gordon knows Souta's reaction to each meal when he stayed in the inn from Miri, so he chose this menu because he knew Souta would like it.

After finishing his meal, Souta takes out Ed's meal from the bag.

"Ed, endure it with this for now."

Souta throws the fruit he just took out to Ed, who catches it skillfully with his mouth.

After they repeat that several times, Ed's meal is also finished.

As they stumble on a big tree along the highway, Souta stops the carriage to take a break in the shade.

"Ed, thanks for the hard work, let's take a short break."

Since several hours have passed since they left the city, they take a rest to fill their stomachs.

Souta takes out of his dimensional storage the buckets from the mansion, and he fills them with Ed's food and water.

While glancing at Ed who's in the middle of his meals, Souta eats the cookie he got from Elina.

"Yumm, it's delicious. If only I had some black tea or hot milk ... I wonder if cold milk is good."

Souta takes out the bottled milk and pours it into the glass.

After resting for a while, they depart again.

Their pace isn't too fast. They go at a speed that doesn't burden Ed. The number of people that come and go to the country of elves seems very low, as they don't pass anyone while traveling.

But just to be sure, in the evening, they move slightly off the road and sleep in the tent.

Continuing the journey like that for a few days, they arrive at the forest.

"According to the book I read at a library, the Country of Elves is beyond the valley after this forest..."

The trees of the forest in front of them are thick and dense, while it got dark and heavy atmosphere surrounding it.

"Is it because the forest is unmaintained that no sunlight can pass through the foliage? Or..."

Compared to other places, the forest is covered by a thick essence of magic, and even with presence perception, Souta is unable to feel the presence inside of the forest clearly.

Souta shows a dubious expression from the disturbing atmosphere that's in the forest.

"... Well, nothing to consider, I won't be able to get there without passing this forest after all."

To make sure, Souta arms himself with an iron sword and gives Ed body strengthening.

As they enter the forest, they are surrounded by darkness as if it were nighttime.

Souta takes out the lanterns he bought and hangs them near the coachman seat and near Ed's head.

Even with the lantern, they can only hear a crying voice from afar occasionally,

but there is no sign of anything coming close.

Although it's an eerie forest, the journey progresses smoothly without any monster shows up, but suddenly the sound which breaks the silence of the forest comes heading directly at Souta.

Whether they are being chased by something, or just being in a hurry, but they keep hurrying the horse by whipping it.

When the distance is close enough for Souta and Ed to see the shape of the thing that approaching, the right wheel of the approaching carriage comes off after making loud clattering voice. [t/n: i actually want to make both objects to become 'thing' instead of carriage, it's not mentioned after all]

It seems to be because heavy loads are applied to the axle when they try to go faster despite the age of the carriage.

As the balance collapses, the horses together with the carriage fall down sideways.

Souta and Ed approach the carriage in hurry.

Then two men come out of the fallen carriage, while another man who falls from coachman seat stands up and rubbing his own body.

"Are you okay?"

Souta gets off his carriage and asks.

The three men all have beards and look like thieves.

After they nod to each other, they prepare their weapons.

"Oi, hand over that carriage to us!"

The man who seems to be their leader points his sword at Souta and says that in a threatening voice.

"Haa, this again..... I feel some sympathy that your carriage broke, but that doesn't mean I'll pass my carriage to you. I'll overlook you guys, so just move away quickly."

Souta shrugs and says that in amazement.

"You, seems like you don't understand the situation. Oy, you guys, do it!"

"" Ooo !! ""

Although they attack Souta together, it has far less precision and teamwork than the three brothers from the guild, and their attack doesn't even pose a threat to Souta.

Souta doesn't pull his sword. As he avoids their attack, Souta hits the back of their necks one by one.

The leader is surprised that the other two were disabled in an instant. By the time he grasps the situation, Souta is already behind him. That man faints just like his subordinates.

"Hmmm, this can be a problem. Now then, I will do this, and, there." Unable to leave them as it is, Souta binds them with a rope from dimensional storage and leans them against nearby trees.

After finishing that, Souta approaches the broken carriage. The carriage collapses in the middle of the road, so it needs to be moved if Souta wants to pass through. When he tries to put his hands on the carriage, he notices a groaning sound from inside.

"Anyone in here?" When Souta peeks inside the carriage, he sees an unconscious child that's gagged and tied.

The child has pointed ears, the characteristic of elves. "Sigh, kidnappers. These fellows got me involved in trouble even before entering the country ..."  
Souta closes his eyes and looks up.

# Chapter 40

The bonfire crackles.

The kidnapped elven child is lying on the fur with a blanket over him.

The sounds from bonfire is quite loud, and the child reacts and wakes up with a start.

"Hahh! Ehh, w-what? I, aren't I supposed to be caught...?"

The elven child checks his body after waking up, and he's surprised that he isn't restrained.

"Suddenly the carriage swayed and then it shook ... .."

Because he fainted when the carriage broke down, he can't remember what happened.

"Ohh, you have wake up, drink this for now."

Souta fills the cup with milk he warmed in the pot before and gives it to the child.

"Er, you are ..."

"Drink first, we'll talk after you calm down."

He sniffs the cup to check its content. After a moment of hesitation, he decides to drink it.

".....Delicious."

He feels shaken from not knowing what happened, but he's calmed down from the warmth of the milk.

"Isn't it? I put a little honey in. It's a bit cool tonight, so I thought something that will makes body warm should be better."

Souta pours the milk into his cup as well.

This area has a warm climate, but there's a difference in temperature between day and night. Hot milk has been prepared for the cool night.

"Ummm, so... what happen? I'm sure I was kidnapped by some guys and was detained..."

He asks the question while tracing his finger on the cup.

"So you really were kidnapped. Don't worry, if it's those guys, they're sleeping in the collapsed carriage at the end of the road."

The elven child's eyes widen from the shock, but, understanding the situation, he corrects his posture and lowers his head.

"You helped me, thank you!"

"It's just coincidence. They picked a fight with me, so I beat them up. I only know they were kidnappers after I defeated them."

Souta waves his hand in front of his face, denying him.

"But still, thank you very much! I would have been sold as a slave if you didn't save me. That guy was talking about that."

He says that with a trembling voice and teary eyes.

"Oh, well, I'll accept your feelings."

Souta scratches his head.

"Ohh right! I still don't introduce myself yet, my name is Arezel! What's your name?"

"My name is Souta, but Arezel..... Are you, by any chance, female?"

Arezel shows a bitter smile.

"Ah, people often get it wrong. Because my hair is short and I use 'boku' when referring to myself ... .. But I'm a genuine female."

"Is that so? My bad."

"It's fine, please don't worry. It's always like that."

Souta is staring at Arezel's face. who says that with carefree smile.

"Now that you mention it, you do look like a woman. I'm sorry, I decided it just by my first impression."

Arezel blushes and looks down.

"D-Don't look so much, it's embarrassing."

Seeing that, Souta smiles.

"Hahaha, my bad ... I did nothing but apologize since some time ago. What are you going to do from now on? I plan on heading to the country of elves."

"Ummm, if it's fine with Souta-san, I would be saved if you bring me with you."

"I don't mind, but will you be able to go in if you're with me? No, should we go closer and then go separately?"

Souta thinks, putting his hand on his chin.

"No, let's go together. Perhaps Souta-san will be able to enter more easily if you go with me?"

Although not sure herself, she still suggests that with confident expression.

"If Arezel says so ... Then we'll go together. And if it doesn't work, we'll force our way in."

"Awawa, please don't do such a dangerous thing! I bet it will be okay! Perhaps ... .."

Arezel panics from Souta's words.

"It'd be great if you didn't say that last word... well, forcing our way in is just a joke. I have some letters of introduction with me, so I'll manage somehow."

"Letter of introduction?"

Arezel tilts her head.

"Yeah, from the guild master and the lord of Toura, also from the alchemist there called Carenalien."

"Do you know Carena-sama!?"

Souta never thought that she would know Carena. He's surprised.

"Yes, but ... You know her? I'm sure she said that she left the country hundreds of years ago. "

"I know her, she's my master first pupil. My master is mean to her disciples you know, but master always praises her saying she is a genius. That master!"

Arezel gets excited and begin to speak energetically to Souta.

"Ah, I'd like to meet her."

"She's.... Surprisingly amazing. It's true that she's pretty good when we work together before, but...."

"S-Souta-san, did you say you worked with Carena-sama? That's amazing..... She's famous for not letting other help her with her works..."

Arezel stands up, holds Souta's hand, and sends him an envying gaze.

"To be exact, I didn't help her, but she helped me."

Too surprised, Arezel sits back down.

"It's amazing, amazing, it's amazing! It's rare for Carena-sama to teach other you know? Even Rouri-sama, her real daughter, said she can count on her hands how many times she taught her."

Even though she's their master, but she doesn't teach? Souta thought, but Arezel is so excited, so Souta keeps it to himself and doesn't say anything unnecessary.

"Well, let's end the talk about Carena for now. it's already late today, so I'd rather stay here and leave tomorrow morning."

"... It may be better to move immediately ... I heard rumors that strong monsters will come out in this forest and the national hunters are not going to get close to here."

Souta has arranged the barrier stone to protect the surroundings, but there's a possibility that it will be broken if a high ranked monster comes.

"If so, let's leave. It won't be much different between night and day since the forest is dark either way."

Souta covers the bonfire with sand and turns the light on the lantern and moves to the carriage.

Following Souta, Ed moves to his own position.

Arezel can't keep up with their sudden movement, so she's late to get up.

"Let's keep them here ... I will leave the barrier stone there. It's will be up to their luck whether someone found them or not."

Once they ready, they go the to broken carriage first and throw the barrier stone there before they continue with their travel.



# Chapter 41

The carriage keeps its advance in the forest.

The forest is still dark, but the atmosphere becomes brighter as there's a travel companion now.

They're riding side by side on the coachman seat.

"By the way, is it fine to leave those kidnappers as they are? "

"You're asking that now?... Well, that's okay. It's all depends on their luck if they'll be attacked by monsters or not, and if they survive, they won't bother to do bad things."

Answers Souta while he recalls what happened before Arezel woke up.

"Somehow, I feel like I'm doing something bad .... What the heck did you do to them?"

"... I think it'd be better if you don't ask about that. There are some things in this world that are better if you don't know them."

Seeing the smile on Souta's face, Arezel nods as she trembles.

"S-Souta-san, may I know what you made with Carena?"

Arezel asks that to forcibly change the flow of conversation.

"It's Ambrosia for Stone Fever. Because I didn't have the equipment, I decided to borrow the equipment from Carena's shop. Somehow, I end up being helped by her."

Hearing Ambrosia, Arezel puts her hands on her mouth from surprises.

"Ehh! Doesn't that require a dragon's liver? Is Souta-san, possibly, a considerably wealthy man? "

Only a few people know the old recipe now, so Arezel's question isn't strange.

"Ahh no, it's not like that. I don't have enough money, but various things happened and it got arranged somehow."

Souta tries to cover up the actual story, but it just makes the answer sounds suspicious.

"... .. Just forget that."

Arezel laughs at Souta's troubled face.

"Ufufu, to show such a face. My first impression about you is a calm, cool person, you know."

"I'm also a human being. I sometimes feel troubled just like I did now, I also get angry sometimes. I usually try not to show my emotions too much."

"That's fine, I also cry and get angry. I also cry when I get yelled by my master when I try to look for materials alone."

"... .. Do you mean you were kidnapped when you tried to look for materials? " Says Souta while staring hard at Arezel.

"Gulp! Nooo ... Ahaha, that's... because I'm also fine this time, so everything is good right? ... Ehehe."

While averting her gaze, she's fiddling with her hands, and cold sweat can be seen on her forehead.

"It's good that you're saved this time. But I'm going to tell your master."

"N-No way. Souta-san, please help me. She got so angry before, and if she knows I was almost kidnapped this time..."

Arezel hugs her own body, shaking in fear, and her face is blue.

"This'll be a good medicine, prepare to get scolded since you made your master worried."

He places his hand on Arezel's head.

"That's right, I guess. I'm sure I made my master worried... I must apologize. I want to see her soon."

Souta doesn't say anything to Arezel who looks down while wiping her tears, and he just continues to pat her head.

A little while after she stops crying, Souta pulls back his hand. Arezel raised her face to fit the movement of his hand.

"Have you calmed down? Let's leave that for now and think about the problem you that's right in front of you first."

"Yes, it's the immigration examination."

Arezel's immediate reply echoes.

"No ... It's how to get out from here. Have you not noticed? We're moving around the same place from a while ago."

Souta denies Arezel's answer and points to a tree.

"That tree does look familiar... Then, are we really going around the same place? "

Souta nods.

"I remember it because it has a distinctive shape, and there are no other trees that have a shape like that. The hole in the ground and the blooming flowers as well. Since it's already the fifth lap, there is no way I made a mistake."

"Five laps!? Why didn't you tell me sooner!?"

"Well, you were crying. Also, I thought that was just my imagination on the second lap, and after that, I was just checking to make sure."

Understanding it's her own fault, Arezel blushes.

"That is ... I'm sorry ... I am sorry, but what the heck happened? When I came to this forest before, this was not the case ..."

"Was it so dark before? It's the same darkness as the night even in the daytime."

Arezel shakes her head.

"It's indeed dark because there are many trees, but for it to be this dark..."  
As they hear a wolf-like cry from the distance, Arezel clings to Souta.

"S-Souta-san, what should we do, we're swallowed by the forest!"

"Something's strange. I feel some kind of presence since entering the forest, but it's unclear ... ...."

Souta stops the carriage in front of the ending point of the loop.

"The boundary is around here?.... Should I try to do something?"

Reaching the boundary, Souta invokes space magic and erodes its boundaries with his own magic powers.

For Souta, it looks like there is a thin film in front of him, and what he needs to do is repaint the red film with his own color.

This trap is the kind that connects the end point with the starting point, making everything that passes through come back to the starting point. Souta unravels its mechanism by combining appraisal skills with space magic. After putting in magic power for a while, all the film is repainted by Souta's magic power. All Souta need to do then is just remove the magic power, and that will sever the connection.

"It should be good with this, but why on earth are there such things?"

"Amazing! Souta-san is amazing! You can do such a thing too?"

By removing the closed space, it feels like the weight on Arezel is released as well.

"You don't need to be surprised. Isn't the one who made this trap just negligent in making it?"

In truth, the trap could only be disarmed because it's Souta who disarmed it, but he acts as if it's not a big deal.

"Is that so? But it's still amazing you know ... but, I wonder if my magic isn't good enough so that's why I couldn't see the magic trap?"

Arezel folds her arms and thinks about it.

"Oi, how long will you stand around, we're gonna start moving soon."

Souta urges Arezel from the coach seat.

"Ah, please wait!"

After confirming that Arezel gets on the carriage, Souta exchanges a look with Ed and departs.

"Hmm?"

Souta senses something and looks back, but all he sees is darkness.

# Chapter 42

"Since you canceled the trap before, I feel that the darkness in my heart also went away!"

"No, that's just your imagination."

"Hauu."

Souta cuts off Arezel's attempt to lighten the atmosphere.

The darkness remains unchanged. It's still hard to know if it's day or night.

"This darkness and that trap might be caused by two different people."

"Really?"

Arezel, who thought both the darkness and the trap were caused by the same culprit, asks Souta with a surprised expression.

"I can't say it with certainty ... .. However, the quality of magic power is somehow different. And compared to the looping trap from before, this trap is too blatant, but it's also a cunning trap at the same time. Covering the entire forest means it's trying to erase its presence. By doing so, its purpose is also concealed."

Souta narrows his eyes and tells his thoughts.

Arezel draws a breath from the change in the atmosphere.

"That's just an idea. I don't understand it myself. In the first place, this might just be a natural phenomenon, not caused by anybody."

"Whichever it is, if it actually covers the whole forest, it's tremendous, isn't it?"

"That's right. Though if it doesn't actually hurt us in any way, the cause doesn't matter... Anyway, I'm already hungry."

With the day being dark day and night, Souta is grasping the approximate time with his biological clock. Right now, it's about dinner.

"Now that you mention it, I'm also hungry."

Once she remembers about her hunger, Arezel's stomach rumbles.

"Uuu, that's embarrassing."

"It's almost time to go to bed. timewise, we need to make the camp now so we don't sleep too late."

"Wait a bit, I'll look for a suitable place."

Souta stops the carriage, descends from the coach seat, and goes into the bushes.

Arezel also gets off from the carriage, but she stays there just as Souta instructed.

"I-I understand, but please come back soon."

She clings to Ed as she feels anxious from being left alone.

Souta is looking for enough space for them to make camp and parking the carriage.

After walking a bit, there is a clearing where the trees don't grow, but it's overgrown with grass. Souta puts his hands on the ground and channels his magic power.

Souta maintains the ground using earth magic.

The grass is dug out and buried with the soil.

And then with earth magic, he levels the ground by breaking up the soil and spreading it around. After repeating that several times, there's now a circular space in the forest.

It takes time, but a small square is formed.

"Like this ..... This is the method that the elder told me."

Not only in the woods but also in hot and cold places, there are methods for each. They were instructed by the gnome hero.

"Ummm, have you find the place?"

When Souta's recalling his past and looks into the distance, Arezel, who got impatient, comes along with Ed.

Because Ed followed Souta's smell, they can arrive quickly.

"Hm? Ohh, you have come. I've found it, you can rest easily in this place."

Souta moves a bit to show Arezel the space that's hard to see because it's hidden behind his body.

"Woahh, that's amazing. To find a place like this! "

Arezel is impressed when she sees the place that has been leveled before.

"I added a bit of work, after that ... .. put the barrier stone in the four corners around this space."

Souta puts a barrier stone so that it surrounds the square, the stone is bigger, and the quality is also higher than what he thrown into the kidnapper carriage, so its effect is also high.

"With this, it should be more secure. And now... Should we have our dinner?"

After lighting the bonfire, Souta puts down three furs around it, and then he takes out meals from the magic bag and arranges it on each fur.

He prepares a meal in a bucket for Ed, and in the tray for him and Arezel.

"The one using the bucket is for Ed, so that's your seat Arezel."

Souta pops down and points to a fur.

"Err, is it fine? To receive this much."

Arezel also sits down on the fur, but she hesitates to eat and doesn't touch the food.

"Don't worry about that and eat, it's not so expensive, I've also stock quite much of it."

The meals served for Souta and Arezel are bread, fried vegetables and meat bought at the street stalls, along with the simmered vegetable soup.

Because Souta had bought a large amount of each, the dimensional storage had a lot of food.

"Well then, please excuse me ..."

Arezel pierces the meat on the container with a fork and carries it to her mouth.

"Hot! Ehh? Hot? "

"Oioi, are you okay? Eat slowly since it's hot. I mean, the steam is still coming out, so you should know it's hot."

"B-But since you took it out from the bag, I thought it would be cold ..... Is that bag special? "

She asks while pointing at the magic bag that Souta put under his armpit.

"You've never heard of it? It's a magic bag that stops the flow of time of whatever is inside it. Since it's pretty rare, can I ask you to keep this a secret? "

Souta puts his forefinger on his lips.

"A-Amazing ... For some reason, I'm always surprised since I met Souta-san."

"Well there are various things, it will help me if you don't pursue them deeply."

"I-I know, I won't ask deeply and I won't divulge anything to Master about my life's benefactor!"

Arezel makes a fist with her right hand and strongly declares.

"Anyway, let's go to sleep after we finish. It's almost midnight. If we don't sleep soon, our bodies' rhythm might collapse."

"Y-Yes. Hot! "

Feeling that Souta asks her to hurry, Arezel burns her mouth again.

"... Just eat slowly. Here, drink this water."

Arezel receives the water poured into the cup.

"Y-Yes. Fuu-haafuu-fuuuhh."

After drinking the water and the tongue that numbed from the heat recovers, Arezel continues to eat.

This time she does it slowly.

After he confirms it, Souta begins to eat.

That night they lay their bodies on the fur, wearing blankets, and go to sleep. There is a warm air in the forest, the dark forest also illuminated by the light of the bonfire, and so the two are able to sleep soundly.



# Chapter 43

Souta awakes in the early morning according to his biological clock, though the forest is still as dark as ever, so there's no way to know the actual time. While casting a sideways glance to Ed and Arezel occasionally, Souta begins preparing breakfast.

He cuts the vegetables and meat on the chopping board and puts the strong-tasting vegetables in the water bowl.

While cutting the ingredients, Souta boils the vegetable scraps to make the soup stock.

After he finishes cutting the ingredients, he puts the vegetables into the pot together with the broth and then closes it with the lid.

Waiting for the vegetables to get cooked, Souta is taking care of his iron sword.

After a while, Ed wakes up, but when he sees that Arezel still sleeping, he doesn't make any sound and just greets Souta with his head gesture.

Souta also doesn't make any sound and returns the greeting.

Once the vegetables turn soft, Souta puts the meat into the pot. Because Souta tries to make pork miso soup, the meat he uses is boar's meat. The boar's meat here tastes slightly more like pig's meat instead of boar's. When the heat reaches inside the meat, Souta adds seasoning that tastes like miso.

The smell of the pork miso soup wafts around. Reacting to the scent, Arezel wakes up.

"Fuahhh, Souta-san, you woke up already? Food...moring."

Arezel raises her body while yawning.

"Good morning, there is still some times until the breakfast is done, you can go back to sleep."

"No, I won't go back to sleep. I'll help you. That's breakfast right? What are you

making for breakfast? "

"It's normal for me to eat this for breakfast, but I don't know if Arezel able to eat it or not."

Souta takes the lid off the pot and shows the contents.

Along with a large amount of steam, the fragrance of the pork miso soup is released at once.

"Wahhhh, that smells good. It looks delicious! "

Arezel leans out and tries to peek inside, but Souta closes the lid without giving her a chance to.

"Not yet, it needs to cook for a bit more before it's ready. Before that, there is a bucket over there filled with water, you should wash your face."

Apart from Ed's drinking water, Souta also puts water in a smaller bucket and puts a towel near it.

"Thank you. I feel like I'm only receiving without giving anything back. My debt will only keep increasing ..."

She says the latter part in a whisper so Souta's unable to hear it.

When Arezel finishes washing her face, Ed already starts eating.

"Souta-san, can I help you with something?"

"No, it's okay, It's already done."

Arezel's shoulder drop because she feels useless to her benefactor.

"Ah, after you finish eating, it will be great if you can clean up the dishes. Cleaning them with a full stomach is troublesome."

"Yes, please leave it to me, washing things is my strong point!"

Arezel swiftly raises her head and strikes her chest with her fist.

"Cleaning up the equipment we used in alchemy is always my job!"

"Reliable, aren't you?"

Because there are also precision instruments for alchemy, letting Arezel do it means she's not just doing it as simple chores, but actually has skills for it.

"It's just cooked, let's eat. Here, here's yours."

While inviting Arezel to eat, Souta scoops the pork miso soup into a bowl.

He also takes out the freshly baked bread and jam and hands it over to Arezel along with the soup.

Although he isn't used to this kind of food combination as breakfast in Japan, he

surprisingly likes it.

Arezel carries the first bite slowly to her mouth.

"Hot! But ... it's delicious. It's got something like a relieving flavor."

"Do you have cat tongue by any chance? This one should be far hotter than yesterday's dinner ... Here, drink this water."

She keeps a bit of water in her mouth to reduce the feeling of numbness on her tongue.

"Yes, since a long time ago, eating hot things is somewhat ..."

Arezel sticks out her tongue and fans it with her hand.

"It's in the pot until a little while ago, you should cool it a bit before continue eating it."

After Souta saying that, Arezel puts down the bowl and eats the bread.

The bread is something Souta bought when it was still freshly baked, but it's more warm than hot.

"It's very soft and delicious, fluffy warm food. That bag is amazing."

"I know right. The soup should go well with the bread, but please eat it slowly."

"Yes!"

Arezel talks while blowing her foods to cool it down.

"Yeah, it's really delicious! I wonder if it will be more delicious with the bread? "

Arezel cuts off the bread she has in her hand and soaks it in the pork soup, then eats it.

"Delicious, it's the first time I've tasted soup this good! Is this the taste of Souta-san's hometown? "

"That's the case, I used to make it often at home. The ingredients and seasoning I use this time is different though."

"Uuu, if only I'm good at cooking. No matter what, it's impossible for me ...."

Although depressed, Arezel doesn't stop eating.

"I've been doing this so long that without me noticing, it already becomes a natural thing for me. Arezel is still young, so just keep practicing."

Elves keep grow up normally like humans until they're 20 years old, and then their development slows down so much it almost stops.

It takes hundreds of years to reach Carena's level of development.

"Yeah, that's right, I will do my best!"

After the second helping of the bread, they finally satisfy their hunger.

Arezel is in charge of the washing just as she promised.

When she finishes washing the dishes, they put away the dishes and prepare to continue the journey.

"Now then, I think that's it. We're going to go soon."

"Yes! I want to get out of the forest today. I'm not sure, but we're probably not that far anymore"

"Yeah, and if we take too long, the search party might find us first."

"I-I know right. Somehow before that ..."

Sweat can be seen dripping from her forehead.

After confirming the luggage, Arezel gets on first. Souta gets in later, as he needs to put water on the bonfire and cover it with soil to extinguish the fire.

"We're going."

Ed neighs once to reply to Souta's command and starts moving.

Although the atmosphere in the forest remains as it is, the ride goes smoothly without anything happening.

After progressing for a while, they can see the light.

"Ah, Souta-san, it's the exit! We're finally out! "

"Oh, sunlight at last, it's been so long."

The two and one horse can finally leave the forest. They're able to leave before noon.

Grassland is spread out right after the exit of the forest. A valley can be seen in the distance.

"So once we pass that valley, we will reach country of elves, huh?"

"Yes, there will be a checkpoint beyond the valley, as we passed the forest already, going there should be a smooth ride."

Listening to her, Souta sighs.

"Hahh, that checkpoint is the problem ..."

"It will be fine! I'm here and there are also the letters, so it will be okay! "

Arezel says so strongly, but Souta only stares at the mountain range in the distance, feeling anxious.

# Chapter 44

They advance on a carriage highway that stretches from the grassland to the forest.

It's still quite far, but because they can already see their destination. Moreover, there's the checkpoint ahead, and they choose to move slowly to be less suspicious.

It was Arezel who made this proposal.

"Souta-san, elven inspection often gets stricter when other races come in. In addition, sometimes they watch quite a wide range, so let's go slowly without hurry."

Souta accepts Arezel's proposal, as she knows more about the current situation, and instructs Ed to go slower than usual.

"Even so, the country of the elves has changed. I think that it was a more relaxed nation in the past."

"... .. When listening to that remark, I feel like Souta-san came to this country hundreds of years ago, but ... I won't enquire too deeply."

Arezel stares at Souta with reproachful eyes, but decides to give up considering their exchanges until now.

"There are various circumstances. I might have spoken carelessly, but I believe Arezel will keep it a secret."

"Hahh, fine. I heard that the elves originally hated other races, but it became prominent since the Iyashi Tree leaves incident."

Arezel begins to explain, and Souta listens.

"Ah, Carena also said that. Looks like that's a really important event."

"That's right. It seems there were some factions that managed to keep the exchange continuing somehow, and thanks to that, although it wasn't as much as before, there was still interaction between elves and the other races. The inspection was also not as strict as now."

"So that's how it was. What gave the decisive blow, then?"

Arezel nods with a meek look.

"Since then, smugglers from other countries that aim for the Iyashi Tree leaves come regularly. Although it had improved so much, it has gotten worse again ..."

"So that's what makes it stricter?"

Arezel shakes her head.

"There is that, but that's not it. Just like me yesterday, kidnapping of elves has been more common for decades."

"So with the country becoming more and more isolated, the demand for elves is also increased."

Arezel nods with a sad expression.

"And in such circumstances, someone just looks for materials alone. I don't know if I should call it courage or recklessness."

"Ehehe."

"That's not a compliment, rather than courage, it leans more toward recklessness."

Actually, Arezel's conduct was incomprehensible.

If there are a lot of elven kidnappings, Arezel who is still a child should be stopped from leaving the country, but she's actually outside of it.

The kidnappers might have had the skills for it, but he honestly can't see that.

Souta thinks it's suspicious, but he waits to see if he can find something by himself when he enters the country instead of hearing it from Arezel.

While they keep going, they have a simple meal and arrive at the checkpoint in the early afternoon.

"Oy, the carriage over there, stop!"

An elven guard raises his voice and stops the horse-drawn carriage.

Several guards surround the carriage. When they confirm that Souta and Arezel are sitting next to each other, they point their spears at Souta.

"Oh, what's this, Arezel?"

Arezel shakes her head, she's trembling and turns pale.

"Wh-What is this? E-Even other races should have the right to get immigration inspection! "

There is no sign of them lowering their spears from Arezel's remark.

"Arezel, this man is charged with your abduction!"

"Oioi, if I were the kidnapper, I wouldn't come back, and it wouldn't be leisurely like this..."

"Shut up !!"

When Souta opens his mouth, one of the guards threatens him by moving his spear closer.

"I-I was kidnapped, but that is ... ...."

"Just like I thought, it's true. Oi, take this man!"

It's concluded that the kidnapper is Souta from Arezel's words. Azerel's flustered and can't explain clearly.

"You guys, cut it out already. I'm telling you I'm not a kidnapper!"

Souta catches the spear protruding right in front of him and breaks it. Then he releases intimidation to everyone other than Arezel.

"You, you!"

Among the guards, only some of the stronger men can hold out, and the others are already fall to their knees right away.

"Do you still want to continue? I only broke your spear and most of you already unable to stand. Do you want to continue in that state?"

Souta raises the power of intimidation by one more level.

The only one who's still able to hold out is a man who supports himself with his spear, and even he is at the verge of collapsing now.

"I-I understand. It's fine already, so please stop it!"

Listening to the man's words, Souta releases the intimidation.

"Because you suddenly come up with weapons, I just protected myself."

As soon as the intimidation lifted, the man rises from his knee.

"Hahh hahh, who the hell are you?"

"Are you going to listen properly now? If you just take me as a suspect instead of listening to my part of story, then resistance is inevitable."

"I-I understand. I will listen to you. Let us talk inside the guard room."

Following the man, Souta and Arezel head to the guard room.

On the way, Souta turns around once.

"You guys, I hope you won't do anything to the carriage and the horse. Just

manage it like it should be."

""Yes ""

Two of the guards who are still relatively energetic decide to lead the carriage to the stable.

When entering the guard room, the man sits further of the table, while Souta and Arezel sit near the door.

At the entrance, the guards who are not in the room waited and sealed the entrance so that they can't get out.

"Well then, let me hear your side of the story."

"I'm not a kidnapper. I want to enter the country because I have some business to do here. That's all."

From Souta's simple explanation, the man covered his face with his right hand and turned bitter.

"You ... That's all? Listening to you, isn't that already obvious...?"

Arezel timidly raises her hand.

"Ah, that, can I explain it from my way too?"

"Oh, please. The explanation of this man's story is not enough ..."

"Yes, first is about the kidnapping... It's true I was kidnapped, but that's by other men. Souta-san helped me and escorted me back."

The man opens his mouth, surprised.

"Th-That means, we raised our hands to Arezel-san benefactor?"

Arezel nodded without saying anything to the question.

"I-If that's true then ... I'm sorry."

Souta is surprised that the man frantically lowered his head. He was expecting a more arrogant attitude considering their elitist tendency.

"As long as you understand. Now then, it'd be great if I can gain entry to the country."

"Because you're Arezel-san benefactor, I would like to do something somehow ..... But I'm still only half convinced to let you to enter the country."

"Only that much? That's right, I have some letters of introduction written, will that help somehow?"

"Can you show them to me?"



At the moment that Souta tries to pass the letters he takes out from his magic bag to the man, the guard room's door swings open.